

Theological Principles Foundational to a Biblical View of Marriage

1. Men and women are created in God's image, equal before God as persons and distinct in their manhood and womanhood (Gen 1:26-27, 2:18).
2. Difference in masculine and feminine roles are ordained by God as part of the created order (Gen 2:18, 21-24; 1 Cor 11:7-9; 1 Tim 2:12-14).
3. Male headship in marriage was established by God before the Fall, and is not a result of sin (Gen 2:16-18, 21-24, 3:1-13; 1 Cor 11:7-9).
4. The Fall introduced distortions and disruptions into the relationships between men and women (Gen 3:1-7, 12, 16).
 - In the home, the husband's loving, humble headship tends to be replaced by domination or passivity; the wife's intelligent, willing submission tends to be replaced by usurpation or servility.
 - In the church, sin inclines men toward a worldly love of power or an abdication of spiritual responsibility, and inclines women to resist limitations on their roles or to neglect the use of their gifts in appropriate ministries.
5. The Old Testament, as well as the New Testament, teaches the equally high value and dignity which God attached to the roles of both men and women (Gen 1:26-27, 2:18; Gal 3:28). Both Old and New Testaments also affirm the principle of male headship in the family and in the church (Gen 2:18; Eph 5:21-33; Col 3:18-19; 1 Tim 2:11-15).
6. Redemption in Christ aims at removing the distortions and disruptions introduced by the curse in the Garden of Eden.
 - In the family, husbands should forsake harsh or selfish leadership and grow in love and care for their wives; wives should forsake resistance to their husband's authority and grow in willing, joyful submission to their husbands' leadership (Eph 5:21-33; Col 3:18-19; Tit 2:3-5; 1 Pet 3:1-7).
 - In the church, redemption in Christ gives men and women an equal share in the blessing of salvation; nevertheless, some governing and teaching roles within the church are restricted to men (Gal 3:28; 1 Cor 11:2-16; 1 Tim 2:11-15).
7. In all of life Christ is the supreme authority and guide for men and women, so that no earthly submission ever implies a mandate to follow a human authority into sin (Dan 3:10-18; Acts 4:19-20, 5:27-29; 1 Pet 3:1-2).

Adopted from "The Danvers Statement" on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood

Marriage Made In Heaven: A Biblical Portrait Of Husbands And Wives

Ephesians 5:18, 21-33

I Peter 3:1-7

When Believers Are Filled With The Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18):

I. Wives Will Honor Their Husbands. Ephesians 5:21-24, 33; I Peter 3:1-6

1. She Will Honor Him With Her Submission. Ephesians 5:21-24, I Peter 3:1-5.
2. She Will Honor Him With Her Admiration. Ephesians 5:33, I Peter 3:6.

II. Husbands Will Care For Their Wives. Ephesians 5:25-33; I Peter 3:7

1. He Will Care For Her By Loving Her.
 - a. His Love Is To Be Sacrificial. Ephesians 5:25.
 - b. His Love Is To Be Sanctifying. Ephesians 5:26-27.
 - c. His Love Is To Be Sensitive. Ephesians 5:28.
 - d. His Love Is To Be Satisfying. Ephesians 5:29-30.
 - e. His Love Is To Be Specific. Ephesians 5:31-33.

III. He Will Care For Her By Knowing Her. I Peter 3:7

Practical Observations From Ephesians 5:21-33

- 1) Only consider marrying a believing mate.
- 2) Commit to being active now and in the future in a Bible believing/Christ honoring Church.
- 3) Be aware of and continually monitor 5 essential areas of the marriage relationship:
 - a. Communication
 - b. Finances
 - c. Sex
 - d. Children
 - e. In-laws
- 4) Pursue a relationship that leads you to becoming one another's very best friend.
- 5) Accept God's divinely ordained assignment in your marriage and family.