

# **DEVELOPING MARRIAGE ONENESS (PART ONE)**

## **I. GOD'S DESIGN FOR ONENESS (GENESIS 1-3)**

Biblical manhood and womanhood is the key to marriage and family oneness.

### **Three Important Truths...**

Genesis 1: 26-31

1. God created men and woman with equal dignity. Both man and woman are equally important to God, created in the image of God, created to bring glory to God.
2. God created man and woman for a specific purpose: to take dominion over His creation and bear children.

Genesis 2:18-25

3. God created men and women with different roles. By God's design, man and woman fit together in unity and harmony for His glory.

### **Important Aspects in Oneness:**

- It is not good for man to dwell alone = need for belonging. Adam needed someone who was like himself, someone who was spiritually alive and created in the image of God, someone like himself (Genesis 2:18).
- Both husband and wife must **love God supremely**. We all have a need for love, acceptance, security and significance. We must understand that only Christ can meet my need for wholeness completely. A relationship with Christ and a healthy identity in Him enables me to love myself properly and express that love to others (I John 4:7-11).
- They must fulfill their God-given Biblical roles of husband and wife (Genesis 1-3).
- Both the husband and wife need to leave Mom and Dad—physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually, and financially (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:7-9).
- They must have no unresolved issues (continued reconciliation) between themselves and God, so that intimacy and transparency are the norm for their relationship (Acts 24:16; 1 John 1:5-9).
- Marriage was designed by God to fulfill the needs that He created within a person and to glorify Himself and accomplish His will in the world. NOT just so I can be happy! Therefore God designed marriage as a covenant to reflect both the unchanging and unconditional love that Jesus Christ has for each one of us.

### **Conclusions to consider and take seriously...**

#### **MEN**

- You cannot take your need for validation to your wife.
- You will never be able to fill every need in your wife's heart for love, acceptance, security, and significance.
- Do not allow the inadequacy you feel and/or the disapproval you have experienced, get in the way of pursuing and loving your wife.

## WOMEN

- Your husband stands alone before God with the responsibility to love and take care of you. You are not his teacher.
- Your husband alone will never be able to meet your needs for love, acceptance and security. Only with an intimate relationship with Christ can you experience that.

## II. FULFILLING BIBLICAL ROLES IN MEETING THE NEEDS

Inherent within every husband and wife are God-given needs that God intended to be met, first in Himself and secondly through their spouse. As each spouse looks first to God to meet these needs in their lives, they will find a greater capacity to meet these needs in their spouse.

### Wife – Needs love & security (“I am safe enough”)

- A wife who feels insecure will be greatly influenced by fear, and will begin to try to control her husband and family to help her meet her needs for security. Her controlling will never bring about what she needs and she will become very frustrated and begin to react in anger. This will only make matters worse—undermining the very thing she needs as her husband reacts to her controlling behavior.
- Because fear is a very powerful emotion, Satan will use fear in a woman’s emotions to deceive her. She must learn that not everything she feels is true. Fear is the antithesis of faith.
- Ultimately, the wife must find her needs for security by trusting in God with her fears and concerns.

It is imperative that the husband understand his wife’s needs and does his best to meet them as God intends. If he fails, he makes her vulnerable to more spiritual and emotional attacks.

### Husband – Needs respect & affirmation (“I am good enough”)

- A husband who does not feel affirmation will often look to success, work, money, and approval from other women to find it.
- Satan will use a man’s pride to deceive him with the lie, “It is all up to me.” This lie, when acted upon, causes a man to live life totally dependent on his own resources instead of God. Consequently, he becomes deceived and leans on his own understanding and wisdom.
- A husband ultimately must find his affirmation in his identity in Christ and not in his performance.
- A husband needs to have a multigenerational vision for his marriage and family.

### A. Biblical Headship—God’s design for providing and protecting his wife and family.

**Ephesians 5:21-25**—“*Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.*”

## Four Enemies of Biblical Headship

### 1. Feminism

- I heard someone say recently that we “breathe feminist air.” Feminism promotes a spirit of independence in women that drives our culture away from headship in the home.
- Doctrine of feminism: 1) Liberal feminism asserts the equality of men and women through political and legal reform. 2) Radical feminists feel that the male-based authority and power structure are responsible for oppression and inequality.

### 2. Christian Egalitarianism

- The Christian egalitarian view holds that the Bible teaches the fundamental equality of men and women of all racial and ethnic groups, all economic classes, and all age groups, based on the teachings and example of Jesus Christ and the overarching principles of Scripture as articulated in Galatians 3:28. While Bible passages are subject to various interpretations, Christian egalitarians believe that:
  - There should be no gender distinction in roles of men and women in the function or leadership of the church, to include ordination of women, or in society in general.
  - In marriage, the wife and husband not only are created equal as female and male, but there is no biblically-prescribed hierarchy giving the husband any authority over the wife.

### 3. Abusive Authority

- Angry, controlling, domineering, demeaning, manipulative, uses guilt and fear to motivate.

### 4. Passive Male Syndrome

- **Fearful**—He is influenced by the fear of man. He does not want to rock the boat or get anyone upset at him.
- **Ignorant**—He just does not know what to do. He has never been taught what to do or shown how to do it.
- **Insecure**—He is only interested in what makes him feel better about himself or what is safe.
- **Unsure**—He does not think he really has anything to offer.

## What Does Biblical Headship Look Like?

- Headship = Christ
- Biblical headship in the home promotes an atmosphere of safety emotionally, physically, and spiritually.
- The head of the home should demonstrate the fruit of the spirit.
  - Galatians 5:22-24—“But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

**B. Biblical Submission**—God’s design for a wife in blessing the husband and glorifying God.

Ecclesiastes 9:9—“*Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun.*”

1. Men and women are created in the image of God and have equal dignity. (Genesis 1:27).
2. In the Order of Creation, man was created first.
  - *1 Timothy 2:13*—“*For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.*”
3. The husband was created to rule over the earth, the wife later was created to be a helper that would be suitable for him. Both created in the image of God, but each one was created to carry out a different role.
4. Woman was created for the man, not man for the woman. She is his completer.
  - *Genesis 2:18*—“*Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."*
  - *1 Corinthians 11:8-9*—“*For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.*”
5. The effects of the fall of man.
  - *Genesis 3:16*—“*Yet your desire (to control or overtake) shall be for your husband, and he shall rule (to have power) over you.*”
6. The husband was and still is to be the head of his wife (Ephesians 5:2).
  - The model of Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:22,24,32)
  - Christ’s Response to the Church (Ephesians 5:25,28,29,33)