

## UNIT 2

### THE WIFE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

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This unit promotes unity by explaining the way the wife is to complete or complement her husband. Suggested supplementary reading and study questions are included. The concept of aggressive submission is explored.

#### A. *Most couples marry with high expectations for their marriage.*

1. They know that many marriages have gone on the rocks, and many of those that did not are not really happy marriages. But they think their marriage will be different because they really love one another.
2. So they begin marriage with great expectation, but often it is not long before the expectation is replaced with frustration. The marriage which they were sure was made in heaven comes crashing to the earth, the stars in their eyes become sand, the delight becomes disillusionment.

#### B. *What happened?*

1. Well, the two of them did not learn to conduct their personal lives or their marriage according to God's Word.

2. When God created man and woman and ordained the marriage relationship, He was not like the inventor who invents a machine and then allows its purchaser to find out how the machine is to be used and operated, how the various parts are to relate to one another.

3. No, God has provided specific information and direction concerning the purpose of marriage and the varying but complementary responsibilities of the two people who form the marriage. God has given certain responsibilities to the wife and certain responsibilities to the husband. *When two people know, accept, and fulfill their varying but complementary responsibilities, oneness in marriage is promoted.* Conversely, when the husband and wife either do not understand or will not fulfill their God-given responsibilities, great confusion and frustration will result.

C. At this point we will consider what God's Word has to say about the wife's primary responsibilities in marriage. In the next unit we will consider the husband's responsibilities. (There are, of course, many passages in the Word of God which speak of the wife's part in marriage. Some of the key passages are Gen. 2:18-25; Prov. 31:10-31; Eph. 5:22-24, 33; Titus 2:4-5; 1 Pet. 3:1-6.)

1. In the New Testament, the wife is frequently commanded to submit, to obey or to be in subjection to her husband (Eph. 5:22-24, 33; Col. 3:18; Titus 2:4-5; 1 Tim. 2:9-12; 1 Pet. 3:1-6).

A. The idea of the wife's submission is not a very popular one in our day. Sometimes antagonism to wifely submission arises out of sinful rebellion against the will of God. Sometimes, however, it may arise from a false picture of what the wife's submission involves. To correct this false picture, I want to state some things biblical submission is not.

1. Submission is not merely a concept for women. It is a concept for all believers. (Compare Eph. 5:21; Phil. 2:3-4; 1 Pet. 5:5; Rom. 13:1; Heb. 13:17.)

2. Submission does not mean that the wife becomes a slave. Actually, the wife is never more free than when she is in submission to her husband, for then she is free to become all that God intended her to become. (Study the description of God's ideal wife in Prov. 31:10-31.)

3. Submission does not mean that the wife never opens her mouth, never has an opinion, never gives advice. (Compare Prov. 31:26; Acts 18:26; Judges 13:21-23.)

4. Submission does not mean that the wife becomes a wallflower who folds up and allows her abilities to lie dormant. (Compare the full use that God's ideal wife made of her talents and abilities in Prov. 31.)

5. Submission does not mean that the wife is inferior to the husband. Jesus Christ was not inferior to Mary and Joseph, and yet the Scripture says that as a child, "He continued in subjection to them" (Luke 2:51). Jesus Christ was in no way inferior to God the Father. He was and is fully and completely God, in every sense. Yet the Scripture asserts that there is order and structure in the Trinity. Jesus said, "I can do nothing on my own initiative, as I hear I judge. . . . I do not seek my own will but the will of Him who sent me" (John 5:30), and Paul declared, "I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman and God is the head of Christ" (1 Cor. 11:3). Certainly this does not imply that Christ is inferior to God the Father. Rather it teaches that there is a division of labor and responsibility in the Trinity. In like fashion, the submission of the wife in no way implies inferiority. Instead, it teaches the necessity for order and structure, for a division of responsibility within the home. Genesis 1:26-27; 2:23; and Galatians 3:28 all assert the equalitarian status and dignity of women and men.

B. Having stated what the wife's submission does not mean, we will now look at submission from a more positive point of view.

1. *Scripture indicates that it is the wife's responsibility to make herself submissive.* Nowhere is the husband commanded to force his wife physically into submission. Rather, the wife is commanded to make herself submissive. (Compare Eph. 5:22 and 1 Pet. 3:1.)
2. *Scripture indicates that the wife's submission is to be continuous.* The Greek verb in most passages about submission is in the present tense. Submission is to be the continuous life style of the wife. (Compare Eph. 5:22 and 1 Pet. 3:1.)
3. *Wifely submission is mandatory, not optional.* The Greek verb is in the imperative mood. (Compare Eph. 5:21-22 and 1 Pet. 3:1.) Her submission is not to be based upon the way her husband treats her. Nor is it to be conditioned by the husband's abilities, talents, wisdom, education, or spiritual state. (Compare 1 Pet. 3:1 and Luke 2:51.)
4. *Wifely submission is a spiritual matter. It is to be done "as to the Lord"* (Eph. 5:22). *The Lord commands the wife to be submissive.* Refusal to submit to the husband is therefore rebellion against God Himself. Submission to the husband is a test of her love for God as well as a test of love for her husband. The wife then must look upon her submission to her husband as an act of obedience to Christ and not merely to her husband. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15), and one of his commands to wives is, "Be subject to your own husbands . . ." (Eph. 5:22). *Still further, wifely submission is a spiritual matter because it must be performed in the power of the Holy Spirit.* The context in which submission is commanded indicates that it can be performed only by women whose hearts have been cleansed by the blood of Christ, by women who are being strengthened in the inner man by the Holy Spirit, by women who are being filled up to all fullness of God. (Compare Eph. 1:1-5:21, 1 Pet. 1:1-3:6.)

5. *Submission is a positive, not negative concept.* It emphasizes what the wife should do rather than what she should not do. In my opinion, Bill Gothard's definition of submission is right on target. He asserts that submission is "the freedom to be creative under divinely appointed authority." Submission means that the wife puts all of her talents, abilities, resources, energy at her husband's disposal. Submission means that the wife yields and uses all of her abilities under the management of her husband for the good of her husband and family. Submission means that she sees herself as a part of her husband's team. She is not her husband's opponent fighting at cross purposes or trying to outdo him. She is not merely an individual going her separate way. She is her husband's teammate striving for the same goal. She has ideas, opinions, desires, requests, and insights, and she lovingly makes them known. But she knows that on any good team someone has to make the final decisions and plans. She knows that the team members must support the team leader, his plans and decisions, or no progress will be made, and confusion and frustration will result.

6. *Submission involves the wife's attitudes as well as her actions.* Jesus Christ was thoroughly submitted to the Father. He said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work" (John 4:34). But how did He serve the Father? In a spirit of resignation, servility, or heaviness? No, He served the Father with gladness. He delighted to do the Father's will (Ps. 40:7-8). Likewise, the wife's submission to her husband is to be cheerful, not servile or grudging.

Scripture declares that God's kind of wife "works with her hands in delight" (Prov. 31:13), finding great satisfaction in using all of her God-given resources to fulfill the needs of her husband and family. Ephesians 5:33 contains a very important injunction concerning the attitude in which

a wife should submit to her husband. It says, "Let the wife see to it that she respect her husband." As she submits to her husband, she is to do so with a respectful attitude. What this means is clarified by the Amplified Version of the New Testament when it asserts that the wife is to notice, regard, honor, prefer, esteem, praise, and admire her husband exceedingly.

7 *Wifely submission is to be extensive.* She is to be subject unto her husband as the church is to Christ (Eph. 5:24). And how broad should the submission of the church be to Christ? Well, the submission of the church to Christ is to be total; it is to be comprehensive. Christ is "head over all things for the church" (Eph. 1:22), and the church is to do whatever it does in word or deed in the name of the Lord Jesus, in total dependence upon His person, acknowledging and recognizing Him in all its ways, doing all for His honor and glory (Col. 3:17; Prov. 3:5-6; 1 Cor. 10:31).

In like fashion Paul says, "the wives are to be subject to their husbands in *everything*." Submission is not to be an on-again off-again matter for the wife. Nor is it to be a selective, choose what you like, reject what you do not like proposition. Submission is to be her life style at all times, in all places, and in everything.

Certainly this does not mean that she must obey her husband when he commands her to do what God forbids or tries to keep her from doing what God commands. She is to be subject to her husband "as is fitting in the Lord" (Col. 3:18). Her husband's authority is a delegated or ministerial authority. He has authority because he is under the authority of God. As long as he does not ask her to do what God forbids or forbids her from doing what God commands, she is to submit. Failure to do so would be rebellion against God as well as her husband. However, since her husband's authority is delegated to him, he loses his authority at

those times and in those areas when his directives are clearly contrary to the revealed will of God as it is found in the Bible. When the husband asks her to do that which is unmistakably contrary to the Word of God, the wife must obey God rather than man (Acts 5:28-29).

The wife's submission to her husband then is to be extensive but not necessarily total or unlimited. She is to obey him in everything except that which contradicts the Word of God. And even then she is to disobey in a loving, submissive fashion, explaining calmly and clearly her reasons for disobedience, assuring her husband of her love and loyalty, and seeking to demonstrate that love and loyalty in a variety of continuous and tangible ways. She is to be her husband's helper (Gen. 2:18), and this she can never be if she manifests a contentious, inconsiderate, uncooperative spirit.

II. An honest examination of scriptural data leads to the conclusion that the wife's primary ministry in life is her husband. When God created Eve for Adam He said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable [literally, corresponding to] for him. And out of the ground the Lord formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky. . . . But for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of the ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. And the Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man" (Gen. 2:18-22).

A. Several important facts about the wife's relationship to her husband emerge from this passage.

1. *God made the woman to be man's helper.* Without the woman, man, even in his perfect condition, was incomplete.
2. *God made the woman to be a suitable helper.* None of the animals could provide the kind of help that man needed. Only

woman could do that: "He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord" (Prov. 18:22). "An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain" (Prov. 31:10-11).

3 *God created the woman to correspond to man.* She is similar to man, yet somewhat different. She is man's complement, not his carbon copy. She is to man what a key is to a lock and what a film is to a camera—indispensable (1 Cor. 11:11).

B. According to the Scripture the wife was made to fulfill the needs, the lacks, the inadequacies of her husband. She was made to be *her husband's unique helper*. She is to "do him good and not evil all the days of her life" (Prov. 31:12). She is to be like *a fruitful vine* in her husband's house (Ps. 128:3). She is to be "one flesh" with her husband, and this will happen only as she accepts and fulfills her God-appointed role in marriage.

1. *This does not mean that everything she does must have a direct connection to her husband.* Nor does it mean that she should never do anything for her own benefit or for the benefit of others, or that she should never become involved in activities or ministries outside the home (Prov. 31:10-31).

2. *It does mean, however, that she ought never to do anything which would be detrimental or harmful to her husband or that would cause her to neglect her primary ministry of helping her husband* (Prov. 31:10-31).

C. And now becoming very specific, I want to suggest some ways in which a wife may help her husband. She may help her husband by:

1. *Making the home a safe place*—a place of encouragement, comfort, understanding, and refuge (Prov. 31:11, 20). Do not use jokes about him or make cutting remarks to him. Do not constantly remind him of his faults, mistakes, and failures. Correct him only if it is absolutely necessary. Avoid

the danger of allowing the home to be in shambles and full of disorder and confusion. But also avoid the danger of making the house a show place where everything must always be neat and immaculate. Husbands want homes to live in, not show places to visit.

2. *Being trustworthy and dependable* (Prov. 31:11-12).

3. *Maintaining a good attitude* (Prov. 31:26, 28, 29, James 3:13-18; Phil. 4:4).

4. *Discussing things lovingly, openly, and honestly* (Eph. 4:25).

5. *Being satisfied with her position, her possessions, her tasks* (Phil. 4:6-13; Heb. 13:5, 16).

6. *Being longsuffering, forgiving, and forbearing* (Eph. 4:2, 31-32; Col. 3:12-14).

7. *Showing an interest in his problems and concerns* (Phil. 2:3-4).

8. *Being an industrious, frugal, diligent, ambitious, and creative member of the team* (Ps. 128:3; Prov. 31:10-31).

9. *Offering suggestions, advice, and corrections when needed in a loving fashion* (Prov. 31:26).

10. *Keeping herself beautiful, especially in the inner person* (1 Pet. 3:3-5).

11. *Maintaining a good spiritual life* (1 Pet. 3:1-2, 7).

12. *Cooperating with him in raising children* (Eph. 6:20; Prov. 31:26-28; 1 Tim. 5:13-14).

\*13. *Building loyalty to him in the children.* The wife's attitudes toward the husband are quickly picked up by the children. Lack of respect or confidence in his leadership, complaints about what he has or has not done will have debilitating influence on the children. She must avoid taking sides with the children or anyone against her husband. She must support and cooperate with him in discipline. All differences of opinion about discipline should be settled away from the children.

\*14. *Being grateful to him.* Appreciation should be expressed freely and in a variety of ways (Rom. 13:7).

\*15. *Showing confidence in his decisions.* Disdain, lack of confidence, anxiety, or strong opposition over his decisions may cause him to become indecisive, defensive, or reactionary. If the wife doubts the wisdom of important decisions, she should ask questions in a nonthreatening way, assuming that there are some facts she does not know and that he really does want what is best for them both (1 Cor. 13:4-8).

D Wives, God calls you to be in submission to your husband, to be his unique and suitable helper.

1. To some extent in this unit we have seen what that means.
2. But knowing what it means is of little value, unless it is applied to your relationship with your husband. Knowing these facts will not promote oneness in marriage. Performing them will.
3. I ask you wives to examine your relationship to your husbands in the light of these truths. Are you really practicing submission to your husband? Are you really his helper? I suggest that where you find yourself to be failing:
  - a. Make confession of your sin to God and your husband.
  - b. Seek cleansing from this sin and all your sins through the blood of Christ (Eph. 1:7; 1 John 1:9).
  - c. Ask the Holy Spirit for power to be different (Gal. 5:16, 22-23).
  - d. Move out in obedience to the Word of God, and make the necessary changes (Phil. 2:12-13; James 1:19-24).

\*(Grateful acknowledgment for the substance of suggestions 13-15 is given to Robert D. Smith, M.D. Dr. Smith has granted permission for their inclusion. He indicates that his remarks are a distillation of concepts taught by Bill Gothard.)

## SUPPLEMENTARY READING

- Adams, Jay. *Christian Living in the Home*, chapter 6.  
 Christenson, Larry. *The Christian Family*. Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship, 1970, chapter 2.  
 Getz, Gene. *The Christian Home in a Changing World*, chapter 4.  
 Rice, Shirley. *The Christian Home*. Norfolk: Norfolk Christian Schools, 1967, lessons 5 and 6.  
 Sproul, R. C. *Discovering the Intimate Marriage*. Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship, 1975, chapter 3.  
 Strauss, Richard L. *Marriage Is for Love*, chapter 9.  
 Taylor, Robert, Jr. *Christ in the Home*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1973, chapters 7 and 8.

## DISCUSSION AND STUDY QUESTIONS

### Role of the Wife

To be completed by husband and wife together.

- A. Study Ephesians 5:22-33 and answer the following questions.
1. What is the one word that summarizes the wife's responsibility to the husband? Compare also 1 Peter 3:1 and 1 Timothy 2:9-12.
  2. What do the words "as unto the Lord" (vs. 22) suggest about the wife's submission?
  3. According to verse 24, how extensive should a woman's submission be?

4. What limit is put upon the wife's submission by Colossians 3:18 and Acts 5:29?

5. According to verse 24, what does the wife's relationship to her husband involve?

6. According to verse 33, what should the wife's attitude be toward her husband? What does this mean? Give several specific examples of what this would mean in practice.

7. What does the wife's submission involve? Does it mean that she is inferior to her husband? Does it stifle her initiative and cause her to neglect her abilities? Study Proverbs 31:10-31 to answer these questions. Make a list of the ways that the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 does use her abilities.

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8. Formulate a biblical definition of what the wife's submission means.

9. How can you express submission to your husband in the following areas?

- Housework \_\_\_\_\_
- Sexual relations \_\_\_\_\_
- Social relations \_\_\_\_\_
- Child discipline \_\_\_\_\_
- Husband's work \_\_\_\_\_
- Meal preparation \_\_\_\_\_
- Family devotions \_\_\_\_\_
- Church life \_\_\_\_\_

B. List your personal habits which annoy your husband. Begin to work on correcting them unless to do so would contradict the Bible.

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C. List ways by which you can remind, correct, or advise your husband without being bossy or nagging.

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D. Discuss the various ways in which you are completing and complementing your husband, ways in which you are your husband's helper; ways in which you are doing your husband "good."

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E. Discuss other ways that you could or should complete or complement him. Does he have needs which you could be fulfilling but are not? How can you help your husband more than you now are?

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F. Discuss ways in which you may be competing with your husband instead of completing him. Are you trying to outdo or at least equal your husband? Are you trying to be a duplicate of your husband? Are you trying to be a lock when God made you to be a key?

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G. What could you do to strengthen your marriage relationship?

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H. Make a list of ways in which you could or do let your husband know he is important to you. How do you show respect for your husband?

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## THE HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITIES

### UNIT 3

This unit deals with the other half of the coin, showing how the husband must complete his wife. Oneness can be achieved only as the husband knows and fulfills his biblical role. Biblical principles concerning the husband's responsibilities to his wife are enunciated. Suggested supplementary reading and study questions are included. The concept of the husband as a servant-leader is explained.

A. *Genuine unity requires a sorting out of responsibilities.*

1. Imagine the confusion that would occur on a football team where no one knew his specific responsibility.
2. Imagine the frustration that would exist in a business where there were no job descriptions, where everything was everybody's business and nothing was anybody's business, where everyone was a "chief" and no one was an "Indian."
3. Well, that is the kind of confusion and frustration that does exist in many marriages because there has never been a sorting out of the responsibilities. Everyone is a "chief" and no one is an "Indian."



## STRENGTHENING YOUR MARRIAGE

G. What could you do to strengthen your marriage relationship?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
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8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
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H. Make a list of ways in which you could or do let your husband know he is important to you. How do you show respect for your husband?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
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5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
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→ HUSBAND'S ROLE

A. *Genuine unity requires a sorting out of responsibilities.*

1. Imagine the confusion that would occur on a football team where no one knew his specific responsibility.
2. Imagine the frustration that would exist in a business where there were no job descriptions, where everything was everybody's business and nothing was anybody's business, where everyone was a "chief" and no one was an "Indian."
3. Well, that is the kind of confusion and frustration that does exist in many marriages because there has never been a sorting out of the responsibilities. Everyone is a "chief" and no one is an "Indian."

B. Real oneness cannot be experienced unless the husband and wife know, accept, and fulfill their varying but complementary responsibilities.

1. In Unit 2, we considered the wife's God-given responsibilities to her husband. In this unit we will consider the other side of the coin, or the husband's God-given responsibilities to his wife.
2. What I was concerned about in the last unit was God's declaration of the wife's responsibilities, and what I am concerned about in this unit is God's declaration of the husband's responsibilities.

a. I am interested in what society has to say about these matters.

b. But I am even more concerned about what God has to say:

- 1) Because I am a Christian.
- 2) Because I know that the God who made the woman and man is far wiser than they are.
- 3) And because I know that God's commandments are not burdensome. His will is "good, well pleasing and perfect." If God gives to the woman certain responsibilities, they are good and well pleasing for her. If God gives to the man certain responsibilities, He does so for good and wise reasons. And the man or woman who fights with God's declaration of responsibility is doing a very foolish thing, for that person is denying himself the privilege of experiencing genuine oneness in the marriage relationship.

C. There are, of course, many passages in the Bible which speak of the man's part in marriage.

1. Some of the key passages are Genesis 3:16; Ephesians 5:23-33; 1 Timothy 3:4-5; Psalm 128; 1 Peter 3:7; 1 Corinthians 7:3-4; Proverbs 5:15-19; Colossians 3:19.

2. As I read these passages I hear God saying that the husband has two primary responsibilities to his wife.

- (a) He is to be his wife's leader.
- (b) He is to be his wife's lover.

1. The husband is to be his wife's leader (Eph. 5:23; 1 Tim. 3:4-5, 12; 1 Cor. 11:3).

A. Today when we speak of leadership, the first thing that comes to mind is an idea about giving orders and being a boss.

→ 1. But this is not the first thing that should come to mind if we are thinking biblically.

a. Matthew 20:20-28 gives us the Bible's concept of a leader. According to this passage, a leader is first and foremost a servant. His concern is not for himself; his concern is not to give orders, to boss other people around, to have his own way. His concern is to meet the needs of others. Indeed, if the best interests of others are not on his heart, if he is not willing to sacrifice himself—his personal needs, wants, desires, aspirations, time, money—if the needs of others are not more important than his own, he is not qualified to lead.

b. John 13:1-15 gives us the same picture of what it means to be a leader. In this passage, the emblem of leadership is not a throne or a club but a big towel and a basin. In other words, a leader must have a servant's heart. And if he has a servant's heart, he will act like a servant and react like a servant when he is treated like a servant. (Note how 1 Pet. 5:3 and 2 Thess. 2:5-11 illustrate the same concept.)

1. When we apply this biblical concept of leadership to the husband, we see that being the leader means that he must be the family's biggest servant.

a. He is to be the head of his wife *even as* Christ is the head of the church (Eph. 5:23).

completely  
contradictory  
to the world's  
thinking

- b. His great model in leadership is Jesus Christ, who made Himself a servant (Phil. 2:6-8) who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many (Mark 10:45) who is head over all things for the sake of the church (Eph. 1:22-23). Whatever Jesus Christ does, He does for our sake; He does with our best interests at heart.
  - c. In similar fashion, the husband is to live for the sake of his wife, always keeping her best interests at heart. He is to be his wife's servant-leader.
- B. Having established the fact that biblical leadership requires a servant's heart, I want to point out some of the specific ways in which Jesus Christ, the great leadership model, led His disciples.
  1. Jesus Christ practiced the principle of continuous association with those whom He led.
    - a. He did not lead His disciples by long distance telephone calls, or by writing them a few letters or by infrequent visits. For over three years, He spent great amounts of time with them. (Compare John 1:39, 43; Mark 1:17, 3:14, 4:10, 5:1, 30-31, 40, 6:1, 30-32, 35; 8:1, 10, 27, 34, 9:2, 30, 10:13, 23, 46; 11:1.)
    - b. Biblical leadership requires association with those who are being led. Significantly, Peter commands husbands to dwell or live with their wives (1 Pet. 3:7). No husband is fulfilling his God-given responsibility to his wife who does not dwell in and arrange for frequent and regular companionship with her. (Note the same word used in Col. 3:16 and Eph. 3:17. What the Christian is to do with the Word of Christ in his heart, the husband is to do with his wife in the home.)
  2. Jesus Christ carefully and relevantly instructed His disciples.
    - a. In many places Scripture asserts that Jesus taught His disciples. (Compare Matt. 5:1, Mark 4:10, John 13-16.)

In fact, the word "teacher" was one of the titles by which Jesus was frequently called (John 3:2, 13:13).

- b. Sometimes He taught His disciples in a formal way (Matt. 5:1-2, John 13-16). On other occasions He taught them in an informal way, in the midst of life situations, when He was faced by a crisis or confrontation, or when He was asked a question (Matt. 19:3-12, 16-27, 21:12-32).
- c. But whether He taught them in a formal or informal way, it is an established fact that Jesus Christ led and served His disciples by teaching them.
- d. Undoubtedly, God also expects the husband to lead and serve his wife by teaching her. (Note 1 Cor. 14:35, where the role of the husband as the wife's teacher is clearly established.)
3. Jesus Christ led His disciples by being a good example.
  - a. Frequently as we read the Gospels, we hear Jesus saying, "Follow me," or "Come after me," or "I have left you an example." He did not simply tell men that they ought always to pray; He lived a life of constant prayer. He did not merely tell men to believe in the sovereignty of God. He lived a life that manifested confidence in and submission to the sovereignty of God. He did not merely preach to men that the Scriptures should be their final authority. He lived a life which was an example of what it means to make the Scriptures the final authority in your life. His life then was an example in living color of what He wanted His disciples to believe and how He wanted them to live. On the one hand, His exemplary life was a pattern or model for His disciples to follow. On the other hand, it earned their respect and made them willing to submit to His authority and leadership. (Compare also Phil. 4:9, 1 Thess. 2:7-10, 1 Pet. 5:3.)

b. Surely biblical leadership involves being an example for those who are being led. Surely the husband's leadership means that he must strive to be an example: a model; a pattern of godliness; holiness; compassion; dedication, and devotion to God.

c. Certainly, because of his remaining sinfulness, no earthly husband will ever be a perfect example for his wife, but that is what he should strive for (Phil. 3:12-14). And when he fails, he should be quick to confess to his God and his wife that he has failed and ask for forgiveness. Even in failure, the husband must be an example to his wife of how the believer should deal with sin. In failure, as well as at all other times, the Christian husband is to lead his wife by the power and authority of a good example.

4. *Jesus Christ led His disciples by making decisions and delegating responsibility to them.*

a. Compare John 4:1-2, Mark 1:35-39, 6:7; 6:35-43; John 11:39-44; Matt. 10:1-14, 16:21-23; 21:1-2; 28:18-20, where Jesus made decisions and delegated responsibilities to His disciples.

b. Note that when Jesus delegated He gave clear, concise, and specific directions so that the disciples knew what was expected of them and how they should go about their tasks.

c. At the same time, Scripture makes it clear that He gave them room to use their own initiative and creativity. He also was sensitive to their fears, needs, questions, spiritual, emotional, and physical state. He gave them a basic structure in which to work but a large measure of freedom within that structure.

d. Similarly, Christian husbands are called upon to lead their wives by making decisions and by delegating re-

sponsibility. To be the leader does not mean that he must bear all the responsibility and do all the work while his wife bears nothing and does nothing. It does mean that he will see to it that the work gets done and that everyone knows who does what.

e. Husbands are supposed to lead, and leading involves making decisions and delegating responsibility. Any organization where only two people are involved needs someone who is final authority or chaos and confusion will result. Fifty-fifty marriages are an impossibility. They do not work. They cannot work. In marriage someone has to be the final decision maker. Someone has to delegate responsibility, and God has ordained that this should be the husband. Indeed, the husbands must make decisions and delegate responsibility as a servant of his wife. Her opinions, advice, desires, suggestions, requests, fears, and questions should be given serious consideration. The wife is to be the husband's helper. She is to be his chief adviser, resource person, and consultant.

In fact, if the wife's opinion differs from the husband's on major issues where there is no scriptural directive, I think the husband should be very careful about forcing his opinion upon the wife. Perhaps at these times, the best course of action for the husband would be to assure his wife that he respects her opinion and ask her to pray with him for a clearer understanding of what God wants them to do.

At the same time, while being very sensitive to his wife, the husband must not become indecisive or fearful about making decisions and delegating responsibilities. Nor must he relinquish his decision making, delegating responsibility to his wife. At times, he may decide to allow his wife to make decisions (e.g., where they will go on vacation, what rugs or drapes or furniture they will

buy), but he must never relinquish his overall decision-making responsibility. God has called him to be his wife's leader, and he cannot be her leader by being her follower.

### C. Husbands, God calls you to be your wife's leader.

1. This means that you must be your wife's servant, that you must spend much time with her, that you must give her useful, scriptural, and practical instruction, that you must be a good example to her, and that you must make decisions and delegate responsibilities in your home.

2. Of the many elements involved in developing genuine oneness, none is more important than this one. Unquestionably, it is the other side of the marital coin. If genuine oneness is to be experienced, the lifestyle of the wife must be genuine biblical submission. Conversely, the lifestyle of the husband must be the kind of leadership that has just been described.

II. But the Bible not only says that the husband must be his wife's leader, it also asserts that he is to be his wife's lover.

A. Dr. Jay Adams, author, counselor, seminary professor, has combined these two concepts and said that in the home the husband is to provide loving leadership.

How do we do this?

1. The husband is not only to be a leader, he is to be a loving leader. The importance of husbandly love has already been implied in what has previously been said about the husband, but now it must be emphasized and amplified.

2. The wife has such a great need for love or the husband has such a great lack of love, that God commands the husband to love his wife three times within the space of a few verses in Ephesians 5.

a. Two times in this passage God enjoins the husband to love his wife even as he loves himself (vss. 28, 33).

b. One time God instructs the husband to love his wife just as Christ also loved the church (vs. 25).

B. Oceans of truth concerning the husband's relationship to his wife are opened to us by these verses.

1. Normally, a man uses a lot of time and gives a great deal of thought, effort, and money to take care of himself.

a. His needs, his desires, his aspirations, his hopes, his body, his comfort are very important to him. He nourishes and cherishes himself. He carefully protects and provides for the needs of his body. He does not deliberately do that which would bring harm to himself. When he is hungry, he eats. When he is thirsty, he drinks. When he is tired, he sleeps. When he is in pain, he goes to the doctor. When he cuts himself, he washes the wound and binds it up. When he sees an object coming toward him, he puts up his hands for protection. He very naturally and carefully and fervently nourishes and cherishes himself.

b. "Well," the Scripture indicates, "this is the way a man is to love his wife. He is to nourish her, cherish her, protect her, satisfy her, provide for her, care for her, sacrifice for her to the same degree and extent, and in the same manner as he does himself."

c. Now that is a lot of love that a husband is to have for his wife. That is a high standard for a husband to keep, but there is still a higher standard.

2. Scripture says, "Husbands, love your wives just as Christ also loved the church."

a. Who of us fully understands the love that Christ has for the church? Scripture speaks of the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge (Eph. 3:18-19). Of this great love, Samuel Francis wrote, "Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free, rolling as a mighty ocean, in its fullness over me."

b. *Who then can understand, who then can plumb the depths of the love of Jesus for His people?* No one! "We may sound the depths of all the mighty oceans, We may tell the distance to the farthest star, But the mighty love of God cannot be measured. Its dimensions are so high, so deep, so far." (First stanza of a song by John Peterson and Alfred Smith.)

c. *But this much we do know about the love of Christ for His people.*

- 1) It is an unconditional or free love (Rom. 5:8).
- 2) It is a volitional love. He chooses to love us (Deut. 7:7; Eph. 1:6-7).
- 3) It is an intense love (John 13:1; Eph. 5:2, 25).
- 4) It is an unending love (John 13:1; Jer. 31:3; Rom. 8:39).
- 5) It is an unselfish love (Phil. 2:6-7).
- 6) It is a purposeful love. He works for our improvement, our development, our happiness, our welfare (Eph. 5:26-27).
- 7) It is a sacrificial love. He loved us and gave himself for us. He died, the just for the unjust, to bring us to God. In love, He endured the horrible death of the cross with all of its physical and spiritual torture and agony. In love, He bore the guilt and penalty of sin and the wrath of God in the place of His people. In love, He personally bore our sins in His own body on the cross so that the penalty and power and devastating effects of sin in our lives might be broken (Eph. 5:2, 25; Gal. 2:20; 1 Pet. 3:18; Rom. 5:6-11; 1 Pet. 2:24).

8) It is a manifested love. Christ manifests His love in words and deeds. He tells us He loves us. He shows us He loves us. He protects us, prays for us, guards us, strengthens us, helps us, defends us, teaches us, com-

Helps to define Agape love - 2/6/8  
with 1 Cor. 13:4b-8

forts us, chastens us, equips us, empathizes with us, and provides for all our needs (John 10:1-14; 14:1-3; 13:34, 35; 15:9-10; Rom. 8:32; Phil. 4:13, 19; Heb. 4:14-16).

3. *This then is the standard by which a husband is to judge his relationship with his wife.*

- a. No husband has ever fully loved his wife in that way or to that degree or extent.
- b. But it is the goal toward which every husband is to press; the model which he is to follow.
- c. And surely every husband ought to spend much time thinking about what this means in terms of his marital relationship. Certainly every husband should frequently examine himself to see where he is failing to be the lover his wife needs and God commands him to be.
- d. Is he really loving his wife as he loves himself? Is he really pressing toward the goal of loving his wife as Christ loved the church? Is his love for his wife unconditional, volitional, intensive, unending, unselfish, purposeful, and sacrificial? Is his love being manifested in numerous and continuous ways? These are questions that every husband should be asking himself and perhaps his wife about himself.

4. Earlier in this manual, I said that the wife seems to have a great need for love and the husband seems to have a great lack of love.

- a. *When it comes to being the lover God wants us to be, most of us do not reach first base.* We like to think that we are great lovers, but in reality we are very unperceptive.
- b. Perhaps this is why Scripture admonishes husbands to dwell with their wives in an understanding way or according to knowledge. Maybe it is because we husbands



do not give our wives and our relationship to them enough consideration that God gives this command to us in 1 Peter 3:7.

C. What does it mean in practical terms to live with your wife in an understanding way? How can a husband communicate his love to his wife? Well, let me suggest a few ways in which you as a husband may love your wife.

★ 1. One of the simplest, yet most neglected, ways of communicating love is by way of words.

- a. Some husbands treat the words "I love you" as though they were dirty words and almost never speak them.
- b. Other husbands treat them as though they were rare pieces of china, using them only on special occasions or when asked by the wife, "Do you love me?"
- c. Actually, these are words that should be commonly heard around your home. Most women crave verbal assurance of their husbands' love.

2. You may love your wife by providing for the satisfaction of her varying needs (1 Tim. 5:8; 1 John 3:17; Eph. 5:28). Remember, your wife has a variety of needs. She has physical, emotional, intellectual, social, recreational, sexual, and spiritual needs. And you are not a good provider or lover if you are not concerned about all of them.

3. You may love your wife by protecting her (Eph. 5:28).

- a. Your wife needs physical protection. She may be trying to do more than she is physically capable of doing.
- b. The demands of carrying children or caring for children may be destroying her. The criticisms or expectations of others may be overwhelming her.
- c. She may need protection in many different ways, and you can show your love to her by being her great protector.

4. You may express love to your wife by assisting her to fulfill her chores and responsibilities.

- a. Sometimes husbands think that there is something un-masculine about doing the dishes, cleaning the house, taking care of the children, or going shopping.
- b. Some husbands will not lift a finger to do anything they consider to be "women's work." He can be in a room where the baby begins to cry, and the wife can be at the other end of the house, but the husband will not find out why the baby is crying. Instead, he calls, "Jane, the baby is crying. Come here and do something about it." And she has to drop what she is doing and come all the way to where he is. Well, if this type of thing happens in enough instances, she begins to think, "My husband does not really love me. Oh, he says he does. But he really does not because if he did he would be willing to help me."

5. You may express your love by sacrificing for her (Eph. 5:25; Phil. 2:5-6).

- a. Perhaps you come home from work all tired out. You want to plop down in your chair and read the newspaper, watch television, or read a book. Your wife, however, has other ideas. She wants to talk. Or she wants to go out to eat and then do some shopping. And she wants you to go with her.
- b. At that point, if you deny yourself and do what she wants to do, even though it is the opposite of what you want to do, you will be saying "I love you" to her in a very loud voice.

6. You may love your wife by allowing her really to share your life (1 Pet. 3:7—"heirs together of the grace of life").

- a. Some time ago I counseled with a couple whose marriage was in deep trouble. As I talked to them I discov-

in two income families - the argument is often then who is harder wants to be husband on + expects wife to keep home

ered that the wife felt shut out of her husband's life. She knew almost nothing about him, his past, his inner feelings, his hopes, his dreams. She felt as if she was living with a stranger because her husband would not open up. She had great difficulty in believing that he really cared, that he really loved her.

- b. Put in the same circumstances, most women would be tempted to think the same way. Generally speaking, the more a husband shares with his wife, the more he opens up to her, the more she gets the message from him that he cares, that he loves her.

7. You may express your love by refusing to compare her unfavorably with other people, especially other women.

- a. Husbands often point out some ability she lacks or some characteristic, quality, or feature they prefer.
- b. Their intention may be to challenge their wives to make some change or try to improve, but the wife takes it as a "put down." The wife thinks that the other person pleases the husband more or is more important and attractive to him than she is.

8. You may express your love by demonstrating to her that, apart from your relationship to Jesus Christ, she has first place in your life.

- a. She needs to know that she comes before your business, your children, your parents, your house, your hobbies, your golf game. She needs to know that, apart from Christ, you delight in her more than in anything or anyone else.
- b. If she knows that, she will be secure. She will know you love her. If she does not, she may doubt your love.
- c. Now it is easy for us to say, "Apart from Christ, my wife is first in my life." But each husband needs to examine himself to see if she really is. To help you to determine

whether your wife has first place or not, ask yourself the following questions. *What means more to me: My wife or my children? Talking with my wife or having sex with her? Meeting my wants or satisfying her needs? Praying with my wife or with other people? Helping others or helping my wife? My work or my family? My church activities or my family's needs? Talking to other people or my wife? Having the appreciation of others or the appreciation of my wife? The opinions and ideas of others or the opinions and ideas of my wife?*

9. You may express your love by giving her a lot of tenderness, respect, chivalry, and courtesy (Eph. 5:28; Col. 3:19; 1 Cor. 13:4-5).

- \*a. Do not use jokes about her or make cutting remarks to her in front of other people. If she makes a mistake, misquotes someone, or does or says something that makes her look foolish to others, tell her about it privately. And do that only if her mistake will have harmful results for someone.
- b. Speak to her in a gentle and respectful way. Be a gentleman. Do not use harsh words or rough speech.
- c. Treat her as you would a valuable jewel rather than a piece of Cinderella or a garbage can. Treat her as you would an expensive, useful, sensitive instrument rather than a cheap, useless, in-destructible tool.

10. You may love her by expressing appreciation and praise generously and in large doses (1 Pet. 3:7; Prov. 31:28).

- \*a. Be very careful to observe her attempts to please you.
- b. Never laugh at or belittle the little things she may do for you.
- c. Express appreciation and respect for her insights, ideas, questions, prayers, character, opinions, and fellowship as well as for her cooking and cleaning and satisfying your physical needs.

- d. Men are often very short on expressing praise and appreciation to and for their wives. One helpful way of overcoming this tendency is to make a list of 90 to 100 things that you appreciate about your wife. When you have made this list, think of the many ways you may express appreciation, and go to work. Do your utmost to make your wife think that she is the most appreciated and loved woman in the world.

### III. Conclusion.

#### A. *Husbands, God calls you to be your wife's leader and lover.*

1. To some extent we have seen what that means.
2. But knowing what it means is of little value unless it is applied to your relationship with your wife. Knowing these facts will not promote oneness in marriage. Performing them will.

#### B. I ask you, therefore, to examine seriously your relationship with your wife in the light of these truths.

1. Look back over what we have seen about your responsibility to be your wife's leader and lover.
2. Specifically note areas where you are failing and where you should improve.
3. When you have identified those areas:
  - a. *Make confession of your sin to God and to your wife* (1 John 1:9; Matt. 5:23-24; James 5:16).
  - b. *Seek cleansing from this sin and all your sins through the blood of Christ* (Eph. 1:7).
  - c. *Ask the Holy Spirit for power to be different* (Luke 11:13; Gal. 5:16, 22, 23).
  - d. *Move out in obedience to the Word of God, and make the necessary changes* (Phil. 2:12-13; James 1:19-24).

\*Grateful acknowledgment again is given to Robert D. Smith, M.D.

## SUPPLEMENTARY READING

- Adams, Jay. *Christian Living in the Home*, chapter 7.  
 Brown, Florence. *A Biblical View of the Sexes*, chapter 8.  
 Christenson, Larry. *The Christian Family*, chapter 5.  
 Gangel, Kenneth. *The Family First*, chapter 3.  
 Getz, Gene. *The Christian Home in a Changing World*, chapter 3.  
 Hulse, Errol, ed. *Reformation for the Family*. Foxton: Henry E. Walter Limited, chapter 2.  
 Sproul, R. C. *Discovering the Intimate Marriage*, chapter 3.  
 Strauss, Richard L. *Marriage Is for Love*, chapter 8.  
 Taylor, Robert, Jr. *Christ in the Home*, chapters 5 and 6.

## DISCUSSION AND STUDY QUESTIONS

### Role of the Husband

To be completed by husband and wife together.

#### A. Study Ephesians 5:22-33, and answer the following questions:

1. What two words in Ephesians 5:22-33 summarize the husband's responsibility to his wife? Compare verse 23 with verse 25.

2. What example or model must the husband keep in mind as he exercises the headship over the wife? Compare Ephesians 5:23 and Ephesians 1:22. What does this mean as far as the wife's freedom, responsibilities, and initiative are concerned? Does Christ delegate responsibility to us? Allow us to make mistakes? To use abilities and exert initiative?

3. For whose benefit is the headship of Christ always exercised? Compare Ephesians 1:22, 5:25–27. For whose benefit should the headship of the husband be exercised? Note Ephesians 5:28.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Consider the ways that Christ loved the church and then apply them to the way a husband should love his wife.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_

f. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Make a list of your wife's needs. Are you fulfilling them?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_

f. \_\_\_\_\_

g. \_\_\_\_\_

h. \_\_\_\_\_

B. The Bible uses the word "manager" to describe the husband's position in the home. Note 1 Timothy 3:4–5 in the New American Standard Version. What does this suggest about the manner in which a husband treats his wife and children?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. What ways can the husband exercise loving leadership according to the following verses?

1. Ephesians 5:29 \_\_\_\_\_

2. 1 Timothy 5:8 \_\_\_\_\_

3. 1 Peter 3:7 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Ephesians 6:4 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Colossians 3:19 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Proverbs 22:6 \_\_\_\_\_

7. Ephesians 5:25–27 \_\_\_\_\_

8. 1 Corinthians 7:3–5 \_\_\_\_\_

D. Proverbs 31:10–31 indicates that a good husband gives his wife great responsibilities and uses her gifts to the full. What gifts or ability does your wife have that you do not have? What areas of responsibility will you delegate to her? Compare Proverbs 31:10–31, 1 Timothy 5:14, Titus 2:4–5, Psalm 128:3. (Warning: Do not force her to take responsibilities for which she is not equipped.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

E. Proverbs 31:28 says that a husband ought to praise and express appreciation to his wife. Make a list of things which you appreciate about your partner. Make a list of ways you can express appreciation to her. (Suggestion: Ask your wife to enumerate the things you appreciate about her. This may be an eye opener to you. If she does not know what you appreciate about her, it is be-

cause you have not been expressing your appreciation. Let Adam's example of verbalizing his appreciation of Eve challenge you. Read Genesis 2:23.)

*Things you appreciate*

*Ways you can express appreciation*

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 1. _____  |
| 2. _____  | 2. _____  |
| 3. _____  | 3. _____  |
| 4. _____  | 4. _____  |
| 5. _____  | 5. _____  |
| 6. _____  | 6. _____  |
| 7. _____  | 7. _____  |
| 8. _____  | 8. _____  |
| 9. _____  | 9. _____  |
| 10. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 12. _____ |

F. Contrast the Bible's concept of love with the world's concept.

Look up the following verses and note what each indicates about true love.

1. Ephesians 5:25 \_\_\_\_\_
2. John 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Galatians 2:20 \_\_\_\_\_
4. 1 John 3:16-18 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Romans 13:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Matthew 6:24 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Titus 2:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_
8. John 13:34 \_\_\_\_\_
9. Matthew 22:37-39 \_\_\_\_\_
10. Ephesians 5:2 \_\_\_\_\_

11. Luke 6:27-35 \_\_\_\_\_
12. Ephesians 4:2 \_\_\_\_\_
13. Romans 14:15 \_\_\_\_\_
14. 1 Peter 4:8 \_\_\_\_\_
15. Galatians 5:13 \_\_\_\_\_
16. Luke 10:25-37 \_\_\_\_\_
17. 1 Corinthians 8:1 \_\_\_\_\_
18. Proverbs 17:17 \_\_\_\_\_
19. Galatians 6:2 \_\_\_\_\_

G. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 gives us the Bible's definition of love. These verses tell us that love consists of many elements—negative and positive. Consider the elements of love. Give an illustration of how each will be applied in your marriage. Be specific.

1. Suffers long—endures offenses, is not hasty, waits for the Lord to right all wrong.

I will love my mate by \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is kind—not inconsiderate, seeks to help, is constructive, blesses when cursed, helps when hurt, demonstrates tenderness.

I will love my mate by \_\_\_\_\_

3. Is not envious, but content—is not jealous of another person's success or competitive.

I will love my mate by \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is not arrogant, but humble—is not haughty, but lowly and gracious.

I will love my mate by \_\_\_\_\_

5. Is not boastful, but reserved—does not show off, try to impress, want to be the center of attraction.

I will love my mate by \_\_\_\_\_

6. Is not rude, but courteous.

I will love my mate by \_\_\_\_\_

7. Is not selfish, but self-forgetful.

I will love my mate by \_\_\_\_\_

8. Is not irritable, but good tempered.

I will love my mate by \_\_\_\_\_

9. Is not vindictive or wrathful, but generous.

I will love my mate by \_\_\_\_\_

10. Does not delight in bringing another person's sins to light, but will rejoice when another person obeys the truth.

I will love my mate by \_\_\_\_\_

11. Is not rebellious, but brave, conceals rather than exposes another person's wrongdoing to others.

I will love my mate by \_\_\_\_\_

12. Is not suspicious, but trustful, not cynical, makes every allowance, looks for an explanation that will show the best in others.

I will love my mate by \_\_\_\_\_

13. Is not despondent, but hopeful, does not give up because it has been deceived or denied.

I will love my mate by \_\_\_\_\_

14. Is not conquerable, but invincible—can outlast any trial, reproach, and problem.

I will love my mate by \_\_\_\_\_

- H. Make a list of any other ways not already mentioned by which a husband might love his wife.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_

- I. Discuss your personal habits that annoy your wife. Begin to work on correcting them unless to do so would contradict the Bible.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

J. Discuss how you can be the head of your home, providing loving leadership without making your wife feel inferior or squelching her initiative and creativity.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

K. What could you do to strengthen your marriage relationship?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

## GOOD COMMUNICATION

### ~~UNIT 4~~

Deep oneness can be achieved only where good communication exists. In this unit the necessity of good communication and principles leading to good communication are presented. Some practical suggestions, supplementary reading, study questions, and exercises for developing and maintaining good communication are included.

A. *No two people can effectively walk together, work together, or live together without a good communications system.*

1. Scripture asks, "Can two walk together except they be agreed" (Amos 3:3)? Wherever you find two people who are continuously and harmoniously walking together, striving toward the same goals, conducting their lives according to the same standards, giving mutual assistance, enjoying sweet fellowship with one another, you can be sure that they are in agreement.

2. And if they are in agreement, you can be sure that they have learned to communicate with one another. Continuous, progressive harmony and agreement are impossible

