

Questions / Answers

1. How was Eve made?
Eve was made from a rib taken from Adam's side
2. How is Christ an example to husbands?
He is head of the church. He loves it and cares for it. He gave his life for the church. A husband should act like this to his wife.
3. How is the church an example to wives?
The church submits to Christ as the head. The church loves and serves Christ. This should be the attitude of a wife to her husband.
4. What qualities does a man have?
He has strength and courage.
5. What is the man's role in marriage?
He should protect his wife and provide for her.
6. What qualities does a woman have?
A woman has tenderness, love, care and selflessness.
7. What is the woman's role in marriage?
She keeps the home strong and cares for the children.
8. Is it right to have sex outside marriage?
No. It is very wrong and brings many problems.
9. Is it right to get divorced?
No. Marriage is for one man and one wife for life.
10. What is the most important thing a husband and wife can do for each other?
Help each other to walk in God's ways to His Kingdom.

Memory verses

Matthew 19:5—6 Ephesians 5:22—24 Ephesians 5:25—28

Discussion

- Discuss ways in which a husband and wife can follow the example of Christ and the ecclesia.
- Discuss problems that arise through sex outside marriage.

Writing

Describe how Eve was made. How did this affect the relationship between Adam and Eve?

CBM Senior Lessons

Lesson 5 Marriage



READING Ephesians 5

LESSON

God made Adam from the dust of the ground. But He did not make Eve from a second heap of dust. God made the woman from a part of the man (Genesis 2:21-22). God made Eve from a rib that was taken from her husband. For this reason Adam and Eve were truly one flesh.

When God brought Eve to Adam, he said, "This is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'outman' (woman) because she was taken out of man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will be one flesh."

A husband and wife should be partners, helping one another along the way to God's Kingdom. Eve was made to be a helper for Adam. God did not make Eve from man's head to rule over him. He did not make Eve from man's feet so that he could trample on her. God made Eve from Adam's side, so that she could stand by him and help him.

Husband and wife become one flesh. It is like being two parts of one body. All the parts of the body share the same feelings. If one part of our body feels pain, then all the body suffers. If we are healthy, then our whole body feels good. So it should be in marriage. The two partners are one body. If one partner is sad or ill, then the other should sympathise and be helpful. If one partner is happy, then the other should rejoice.

This special closeness includes the sexual relationship between a man and his wife. The relationship should give pleasure to both the man and the woman. God designed the sexual relationship to give pleasure to both partners. It is a blessing from God - but only within marriage. Both partners should try to please the other in this relationship.

Marriage was given by God to help us as we struggle through life towards His Kingdom. A deep and spiritual marriage relationship will give glory to God as the man and woman work as partners, helping each other towards the Kingdom.

Christ and the church an example for marriage Read Ephesians 5 : 22 - 33

The relationship between Christ and the ecclesia is an example for marriage. Christ is the head of the ecclesia. Christ loved the church and gave himself for it. Christ cares for the ecclesia. He looks after us and cares for us every day. He knows all our needs. But most of all he cares for our spiritual needs. He helps us to develop characters that are beautiful to God. He wants us to have salvation and be in the wonderful Kingdom which God will set up on the earth.

The ecclesia loves Christ, because he has loved us and saved us. We try to serve him and obey his commands. We try to follow his example. We try to give everything we have to show our love to him.

In a Christian marriage the husband should love his wife as Christ loved the ecclesia. The most important thing he should do is to help his wife to love and serve God. He should want more than anything else that his wife will be in God's Kingdom. He will try to love and care for his wife as Christ cares for the ecclesia. Christ did not bully or boss - he gave his life in service for the ecclesia.

Christ is the head of the ecclesia. The ecclesia submits to Christ's will. In the same way wives must submit to their husbands in everything. They do this as an act of obedience and love **to Christ**. Wives must act towards their husbands as they would act towards Christ.

In a Christian marriage both partners show their love for Christ by loving and serving their partner. Both will want their partner to be saved and be in God's Kingdom.

Both will try to help each other on the road to the Kingdom.

God has given men and women different qualities. The man has strength and courage so he is the provider and protector. The woman has been given tenderness, loving care and selflessness. These qualities are needed to keep the home strong from inside and to bring up the children. The husband and wife should work together. The qualities of a man and a woman together make a strong home.



One man. one wife—for life Read Matthew 19:4—6

Jesus tells us that marriage is the joining together of two people so that they become one. God said that this marriage must last as long as both remain alive. What God has joined together must not be broken by man or woman. God intends marriage to be the union of one man with one woman for life.

Whenever a man and woman have sex together they become one flesh. This is why husband and wife should only have sex together. They should not have sex with anyone else. Sex between a man and his wife should be a great blessing to them both. But sex outside marriage is a great evil.

Read Proverbs 6: 27 - 29

The Bible says sex is like fire. Sex, like fire, is a great gift from God. If we use it properly it can bring much happiness. Sex between a man and his wife can bring joy and comfort to them both. But sex outside marriage is like a fire out of control. It breaks up marriages, causes the birth of unwanted children and spreads diseases like AIDS. Worst of all, those who have sex outside marriage will be rejected from God's Kingdom. Like fire, sex must be kept in its proper place. The only proper place for sex is within marriage. 1 Corinthians 6:18—20.

Divorce Read Matthew 5:31—32

If things go wrong in a marriage, we should pray to God to help both partners to make every effort to live together in peace. This is not easy when there are problems. They need God's help. Every effort should be made to keep the couple together. The Bible teaches that it is totally wrong to divorce and take another partner once you are married. Marriage is for life.

Behaviour before marriage Read 1 Corinthians 6:9—11

Sexual relations before marriage are very common in many countries. People who have no intention of getting married will have sex together. This should not happen between Bible believers. Casual sex is totally condemned in the Bible. When a couple decide to get married, the Bible teaches that they must wait until they are married to have sex together.

The Bible condemns all sexual abuse. Sex before marriage and outside marriage, prostitution and homosexuality are all condemned, The proper and only place for sex is within marriage.

Sharing God's blessings

Marriage is provided by God. A husband and wife who share the same beliefs can walk in God's ways together. They share God's blessings together and help each other on the way to the Kingdom.