

THE GETTING EQUIPPED™ SERIES

The Christian Family

Lesson- 5



EQUIPPERS GROUP INTERNATIONAL

GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Equipping for the Christian Journey



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

OBJECTIVES OF THE LESSON

1. To learn that a successful marriage requires intense desire, knowledge and grace
2. To understand the four primary responsibilities of a husband
3. To learn how to meet the basic needs of your wife

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AT END

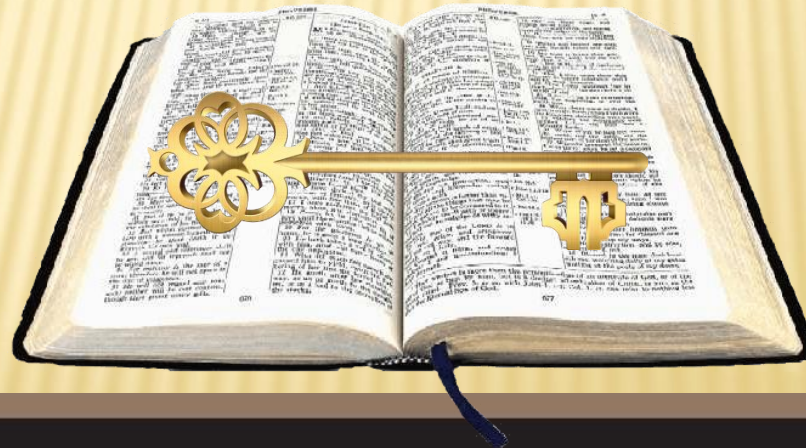


GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

KEY VERSE

Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

1 Corinthians 11:3



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GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

A successful marriage: The husband's part

God desires marriage to be the most satisfying relationship humans have apart from their relationship to Him. Great and satisfying relationships are no accident, they require hard work and a deep desire to have the best relationship possible.

Putting on a wedding ring does not make you a great husband or wife, just like putting on a soccer jersey does not make you a great player. Many couples refuse to put in the hard work and find themselves *enduring* instead of *enjoying* their marriage.

For a marriage to be successful it requires three things: desire, knowledge, and grace.

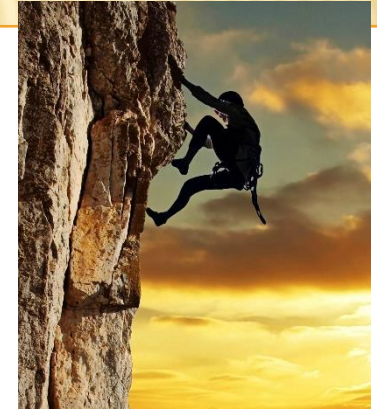


GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

A successful marriage: The husband's part

1. DESIRE

- a. To make personal changes
- b. To accept one's spouse unconditionally
- c. To believe God for His best in the relationship



When the commitment is not present, the husband or wife begins to settle for less than God intended. This leads to frustration and unfulfilled lives.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

A successful marriage: The husband's part

1. KNOWLEDGE

- a. Knowing God's guidelines for the husband and wife
- b. Plans to implement these guidelines in the relationship

God's guidelines lay out the roles and responsibilities of both partners. When couples follow these instructions, they strengthen the integrity and stability of their relationship. When they do not follow them the foundation of the relationship begins to crack and the house becomes unstable.





GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

A successful marriage: The husband's part

1. GRACE

- a. Accepting the undeserved provision of God
- b. Offering the same to your partner through the strength of the Lord



Apart from God's power and strength, the follower of Christ will never have the personal and inner resources to fulfill all that God asks of them in the marriage relationship.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

A successful marriage: The husband's part

THEREFORE: When the three requirements of desire, knowledge, and grace are present within the marriage, God is then able to bring peace, satisfaction and fruitfulness into the life of the husband and wife.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

A successful marriage: The husband's part

The Bible begins with instructions for the man, the husband, because he is called “the head.” (1 Corinthians 11:3, Ephesians 5:23) Being “the head” means he is to be responsible, give leadership and provide protection.

God compares a husband's relationship with his wife to that of Christ and the Church. (Ephesians 5:22-33) Believers love Christ because He loved them first (1 John 4:19) and initiated this love by dying for our sins. Believers respond by embracing Him as Lord and leader of their life. A husband too should be the initiator of love so that his wife can then respond with returned love and honor for his leadership.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

A successful marriage: The husband's part

It is God's will that husbands and wives meet each other's basic relational, sexual, and companionship needs. When these needs are met, a spouse will not need to seek them elsewhere.

Meeting needs leads to less conflict and puts a guard around the relationship against apathy, immorality and adultery.

It is crucial for couples to understand God's responsibilities concerning their unique roles in marriage.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands

For the man to be a successful and godly husband, he needs to follow the instructions given by God.



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GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands

Checklist of the husband's responsibilities

Responsibility 1	Take responsibility for your marriage
Responsibility 2	Love your wife by meeting her needs
Responsibility 3	Understand and accept the uniqueness of your wife
Responsibility 4	Increase your wife's value through honor and respect



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GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 1

Take responsibility for your marriage



Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. (1 Corinthians 11:3)

For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. (Ephesians 5:23)



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 1

Take responsibility for your marriage



“Man” refers specifically to husbands. In other scriptures where the woman is told to submit to “man” it means her own husband, not just any man. (Ephesians 5:22) So a man is instructed to lead his wife and be responsible for their relationship.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 1

Take responsibility for your marriage



He is also responsible for what happens within the context of the home. Failing to take responsibility means the wife must take charge. This will cause stress for her and in turn for the marriage. This is NOT God's plan.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 1

Take responsibility for your marriage



The husband should be the provider, protector and supporter of his wife. This is a position of authority that is not earned or deserved but required by the Lord. Husbands are not to use this authority to force their wives to submit by bossing them around or being cruel. This is NOT God's desire.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 1

Take responsibility for your marriage



Authority is only effective when the husband is under the authority of Christ who is “*the head of every man.*”
A man cannot cover his wife spiritually and be her head unless he is submitting himself to Christ and His will.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 1

Take responsibility for your marriage



Even Jesus had to submit to the authority of the Father. See Matthew 8:5-10. Jesus knew that his saving power came from His voluntary submission to the will of the Father. Paul also points this out in Philippians 2:8-9. Likewise, God's power and authority flows to husbands when they live under the submission of Christ.

Therefore, the husband's first guideline that directs all others is that he must take responsibility for the relationship as the God appointed head of the relationship.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 2

Love your wife by meeting her needs



Husbands are instructed *“to love their wives, just like Christ loved the church.”* (Ephesians 5:25) Practically speaking, this means discovering her needs and taking the initiative to meet them. This means giving up independence and self-centeredness. Jesus loved unconditionally, even when we hated him. He died for us before we chose to love Him. This is the kind of love that is asked of husbands. A love that requires no prerequisite actions and continues no matter the response.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 2

Love your wife by meeting her needs

Love like Jesus as shown in Ephesians 5:25-31

- Sacrificial (verse 25)
- Unifying (verse 26)
- Cleansing/Purifying (verses 26-27)
- Personal (verses 28-30)
- Inseparable (verse 31)





GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 2

Sacrificial Love

Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25)

Jesus gave up his rights and freedom in order to meet the deepest need of mankind. He sacrificed comfort, glory, pleasure, and security to come to earth.

Husbands will often have to sacrifice leisure time, independence and time to meet the needs of their wives. Ask yourself, “What are you willing to lay down for your wife?”



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 2

Unifying Love

to make her holy...(Ephesians 5:26)

Jesus wanted to make the church holy, sanctified, set apart for God's purposes. Jesus sets them apart for His love and service.

When a husband loves his wife this way, she feels “set apart” from other women. She feels like the number one priority of her husband's heart. This love connects them together in heart, vision, and the concerns of life.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 2

Cleansing/Purifying Love

...cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

(Ephesians 5:26-27)

Jesus' love cleanses the believer through the washing of the word.

A husband's love should "cleanse" his wife of things that may be a bondage: anger, fear, insecurity, poor self-esteem, loneliness. When a husband loves well, these things are "washed away" and wives can find the glory of God that dwells in them.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 2

Personal Love

In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of His body.

(Ephesians 5:28-30)

Husbands should love and treat their wives as if it is their own body *(they are no longer two, but one—Matthew 19:6)*. He would not harm his own body but would take care to keep it healthy. In the same way, he should work to care for his wife and keep her healthy.

Just apply the “Golden Rule.”



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Treat your wife the way you want to be treated

Do you enjoy compliments?

Then compliment your wife.

Do you appreciate help when faced with too much work?

Then give you wife help when she has too much work.

Does it make you feel good when someone says, “thank you” for your help?

Then tell your wife “thank you” when she gives you help.

Love your wife like you want to be loved

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GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 2

Inseparable Love

For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. (Ephesians 5:31, Genesis 2:24)

Marriage bonds a couple spiritually, emotionally and physically (through sexual intimacy). But God also means that they lose their sense of self, and their focus should shift to the living life for the benefit of the other and thus both. Just as believers cannot be separated from Christ, so a husband and wife should not be divided. When a husband loves like Christ, that love will win the heart of the wife to create an inseparable bond.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 2

Love your wife by meeting her needs



But what if I do not know my wife's needs?

Quick answer: Just ask her.

Most wives know their needs and are ready to share them with you.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 2

The basic needs of a wife

Because divorce is common in many countries, numerous studies have been done to discover why this is the case. The number one reason...basic needs not met. These same studies have tried to define those basic needs.

Now we will look at five basic needs of wives.





GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 2

Security

This may be the most important need of a woman. When a wife feels secure, she is safe, guarded, protected and financially sound. To a wife, security means

- She is her husband's priority
- Her husband is working hard to provide financially
- Her husband will protect her and their children from harm





GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 2

Affection

Simply put, the wife needs consistent acts of kindness, consideration, and loving physical touches.

Affection is NOT sex.



Affection is the expression of thoughtfulness through giving, serving, and caring.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 2

Conversation

Studies show women need conversation WITH their husbands. Men tend to not be as verbal and can even find conversation irritating, but when a man takes time to share things with his wife, she will feel more intimate with him. Talking to her makes her feel valued and that you want her as part of your life.





GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 2

Honesty

A wife needs to feel that her marriage is open and honest. Men sometimes tend to hide things from their wives—they do this for many reasons. This leads to distrust and can be hard or even impossible to heal.

When a husband is honest about his daily activities and struggles, the wife feels secure because she can trust her husband.





GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 2

Family Commitment

A wife needs to know that her husband will help raise the children responsibly. Many men may detach from domestic, family responsibilities leaving the wife with all the discipline and parenting duties.

She feels abandoned.



She needs her husband to help carry the burden of caring for the family.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 3

Understand and accept the uniqueness of your wife

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. (1 Peter 3:7)

“Be considerate” can also mean to live in an understanding way. In other words, husbands should be students of their wives, learning and knowing their strengths, weaknesses, like, dislikes, fears and personal passions. Husbands should also know their wife’s limitations.

“Weaker partner” does mean inferior. This means that women have physical limitations in most instances compared to men. Men are to be sensitive to these limitations before they ask or expect hard, physical work. Woman was not created to be man’s work animal.

Forcing her to be someone or something she is not violates God’s command to understand and accept her the way God made her.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 3

Understand and accept the uniqueness of your wife

God is very serious about how a husband is to treat his wife in this manner. The scripture says that if he does not, God will not listen to his prayers. Men often try to control or even change their wife instead of accepting her uniqueness.

When a husband discovers how God made the woman unique, he learns her deepest needs and struggles. He is then better able to serve his wife more effectively.





GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 4

Increase your wife's value through honor and respect

Recall 1 Peter 3:7

“Treat them with respect” can also be translated as showing honor. To grant honor means that the husband publicly communicates to others that his wife has great value and worth.

Just like a fence protects a piece of land, the husband is to guard and protect the honor of his wife at all times.



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GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 4



Increase your wife's value through honor and respect

What is honor?

Honor means to value or consider precious. When a husband gives his wife honor, she will not only become more valuable to him, but her value of herself will increase as well.

For where you treasure is, there your heart will also be. (Matthew 6:21)

Your treasure—the thing you invest time or money into—will be what holds your heart. This should be your wife.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Guidelines for husbands: Responsibility 4

Increase your wife's value through honor and respect

God also says she is valuable and worthy of honor because she has a spiritual inheritance and calling. She has been given spiritual gifts and assignments from God. Therefore, she should be treated with dignity and honor.

Honoring your wife honors Christ.





GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

A Brief Summary

Accepting the responsibility to be the head of his wife and home is a great honor and privilege for the husband. Through the grace of the Lord Jesus who lives in them, their marriage can be successful, fruitful and fulfilling.



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GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



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GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Consider these three requirements for a successful marriage:

- ✓ Desire to have a great and healthy marriage
 - ✓ To have knowledge in how to build a successful marriage
 - ✓ God's grace is necessary in a successful marriage
-
- Discuss why husbands and wives sometimes struggle with these requirements.
 - Discuss ways they may need to change themselves to be successful in meeting these requirements.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Read 1 Corinthians 11:3 and Ephesians 5:23. This question was previously discussed in Lesson 3. After studying this lesson, discuss the following questions again.

- What does it mean for a husband to be the head of his wife and family?
- How can a husband love his wife like Christ loved the church?

Look up the scriptures relating to the following kinds of love Christ had for the church and discuss.

- Sacrificial love (5:25)
 - Unifying love (5:26)
 - Cleansing/Purifying love (5:26-27)
 - Personal love (5:28-30)
 - Inseparable love (5:31)
- Has your opinion changed now that you have studied this concept further?



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Review the basic needs of a wife.

- Discuss which basic need is hardest for husbands to consistently meet.
- Why is it important for the husband to meet these needs?



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

Discuss some practical ways a husband can show honor and respect to his wife.



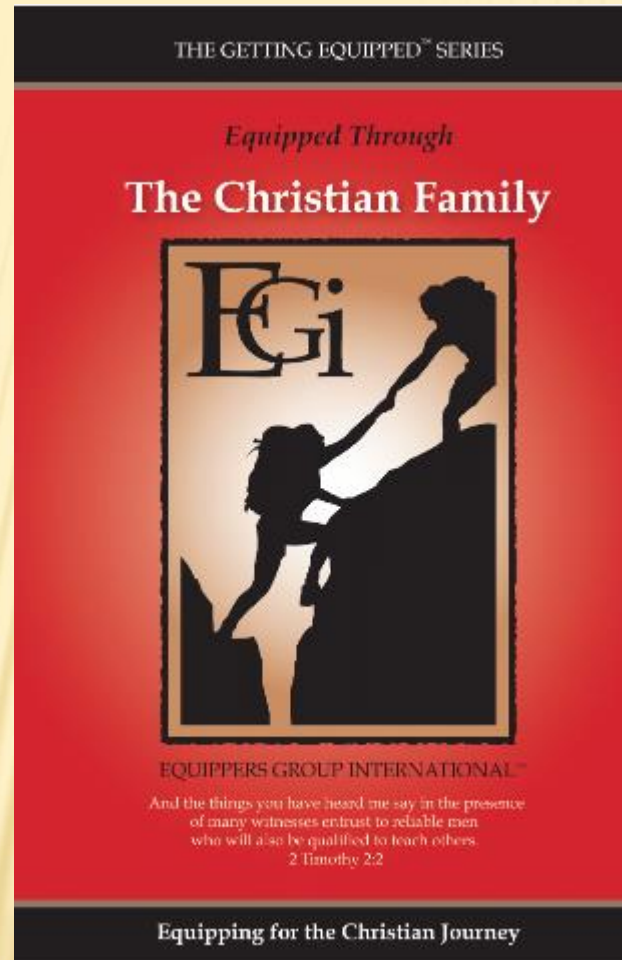
GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS

APPLICATION

1. Prayerfully consider the following basic needs of a wife. Write your thoughts on those with which you struggle. How could you better resolve those needs?
 - Security
 - Affection
 - Conversation
 - Honesty
 - Family Commitment
2. In which one area do you feel you are doing great as a husband? Which area do you need to improve the most? Write your thoughts. Discuss these two questions with your spouse.



GUIDELINES FOR HUSBANDS



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