

## Study 0080

### Scripture text: Genesis 2:7-15, 18; Ephesians 5:22-33

In accomplishing God's intended purpose for marriage, we have seen that it is only a person who is living the crucified life who really should get married, and, who truly can fulfil God's intention for marriage. We have also seen that those who are still living according to the old sinful nature, or the self-life, are unable to fulfill God's intention for marriage because, they are self-centered, strong-willed, mindful of earthly or worldly things, and, uninterested in the overall well-being of their spouse except it is beneficial to them. Indeed, the self-life in a marriage focuses on itself to the exclusion of the other Party in the marriage; and where the other Party in the marriage will not give in to their selfish demands, they either seek to enforce their desires by force of strength (for example: physical, emotional, and psychological abuse, manipulative shedding of tears, getting sexual satisfaction from other sources, etc.), and where that is not working, they seek divorce.

Because marriage is a mirror of the union between Christ and the Church, the couple who are living the crucified life are actually living by faith in Christ, and are therefore able to manifest His life in the marriage union. Thus, the purpose of Christ, and that of a couple in a marriage union, become one and the same. It is a misnomer for a Christian couple in marriage to have a purpose or walk in a direction opposite that in which God is travelling. For this reason, every believer in Christ must come to terms with the reality of the Lordship of Christ over their lives; not just over the lives of their enemies!

The crucified life is lived in tandem with the resurrected life. So, the new man is both a crucified and resurrected man. It is this new man who can be led by the Holy Spirit (**Galatians 5:16-17, 24-25**); whose interest in the world is dead, and in whom the world has lost interest (**Galatians 6:14**); and, whose interest in the things of God is very much alive and paramount (**Romans 6:8-18; Matthew 16:21-23**)! This new man is the starting point of any marriage union that will fulfill God's intention in marriage between a man and a woman!

In the beginning, after God made Adam, He planted a garden, and placed the man which He had made in it, "... *to dress it and to keep it*". Also, the man's sustenance was to come from the garden, and, boundaries were set forth: "*Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat of it ...*". Afterwards, God 'observed' that "*It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him*". It is apparent that in the beginning, God placed the man He had made in a specific location, gave him an assignment, provided for his sustenance, and, gave him a helper suited to him to be his wife. In **2 Corinthians 5:17**, the bible tells us that if any man is in Christ he is a new creation. So, like Adam, when a man is born again or created anew (**John 3:3**), he is placed in a garden (ministry, vocation, location) planted (established, determined, chosen) by God to dress and keep it (perform a God-given task). For the man to be effective in his God-given task (which may be church-based or marketplace-based), God gives him a wife (a helper comparable to, suited to, or suitable for, him). We have noted elsewhere that when God brought the animals He had made to Adam, Adam did not find any of them as a helper comparable to him (**Genesis 2:19-20**), but when Eve was brought to Adam, he instantly recognized her as the helper suited to him (**Genesis 2:21-23**). For the believer in Christ, there can be no suitable helper other than the woman God brings to him, and he should recognize her—there is nothing that suggests physical attraction; a wife is known by divine revelation!

From the above, we see that a husband has a God-given assignment, and his wife is on hand to help him accomplish it. In accomplishing his task, the man may be assisted directly, indirectly, or both. Direct assistance refers to a situation in which the wife is involved in the business, vocation, or, ministry of the husband directly; while indirect involvement refers to a situation where the wife plays a role which enables her husband to be effective in his God-given task—for example, taking care of the home-front, while her husband is out in the marketplace or ministry. Thus, a wife, in addition to being a companion, a complement, and, a completion, to the husband, is also his helper; and the husband is her head (**1 Corinthians 11:3, 9**)!

The husband as head is not expected to be a dictator or tyrant, but a person who provides loving leadership (**Ephesians 5:23, 28-29**). As head, it is expected that he would know what God has called him to do in furtherance of His kingdom, and to go ahead to do it. This will necessarily involve the acquisition of the necessary skills to enable him be effective in his God-given assignment—skills that will come through personal bible study, prayer, and, training in righteousness. As head, the husband is the eyes, the ears, the voice, and the brain of the home. He is expected to receive revelation from God, and communicate it to his wife and children. He is expected to know what direction his household should be moving in, and, then help them to move in that direction. He is the priest, and direct representative of God in the home, and is expected to live and lead by example.

### **ASSIGNMENT**

*(In our assignment in this study, we want to help men to actualize God’s intention for them in marriage by letting them know the basics required of them as men, husbands, fathers, etc. Everyone is to contribute in this assignment—both men and women.)*

After a man is born again, spirit-filled, and is beginning to live the new life, the following should apply (*your assignment is to help him know how*):

1. He needs to be in the right place (**Genesis 2:15; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27-28**).

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2. He needs to understand why he has been placed where he has been placed (**Genesis 2:15; Ephesians 4:11-13; Isaiah 61:3; 2 Timothy 2:4; Philippians 3:12**).

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3. He needs to know what His God-given assignment is (**Proverbs 28:19; Acts 9:3-6; 26:12-18; Luke 5:8-11; 2 Corinthians 5:15; 1 Corinthians 6:20**).

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4. He needs to make himself available for training in righteousness (**2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 5:13-14; 10:25**).

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5. He needs to understand what true leadership is (**Ephesians 5:23, 25; Matthew 20:25-28; 1 Peter 5:2-3; 1 Timothy 3:1-7**).

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6. He needs to know what it means to love God's way (**Ephesians 5:25-29, 33; Colossians 3:19; Proverbs 10:12; 1 Corinthians 13:1-8; 1 John 3:10, 16-17; 4:18**).

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7. He needs to ask God to show him who his wife (helper) is, if he is not yet married (**John 14:13-14; 1 John 5:14-15; Genesis 17:15-21**).

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### **CONCLUSION**

Being a man and husband is more than having a burly stature; it is first and foremost about \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ then, \_\_\_\_\_ . Besides the two principal things stated above, a man and husband, also needs to know and understand the implication of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Above all, a man who is not yet married needs to ask \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_, who is to be his \_\_\_\_\_. From all that has been said, it is clear that marriage has to be \_\_\_\_\_-based!