

Bible Passages for Husbands

Below are some Bible passages that are relevant for husbands to study & meditate upon. Some of these are simply descriptive.¹ Some are prescriptive.²

In the New Testament, in particular, commands are tied to one of three things:

1. "Do this" because of what God has done, is doing or will do³
2. "Do this" because your relationship with God is more than enough⁴
3. "Do this" for the glory of God.⁵

You can see all three of these in the parable of the vine (John 15:1-11).

Below, in the right hand column, you can see summary statements (the larger font) and commentary (the smaller font). In many cases, there is no comment at all because I've chosen to focus more on the material pertaining to husbands than the context.⁶

1 "This is the way it is."

2 "This is the way it ought to be." "Do this!" "Don't do that!"

3 For example, in Ephesians 5:25 the command to love your wife is tied to Christ loving the church. This not only explains the nature of the love (i.e. contra-conditional love) but the resource needed to provide such love (i.e. Christ's provision). Similarly, 1 Peter 2:21-25 describing Christ's work is referred to 'likewise' in 1 Peter 3 describing the wife & husband's role. This connection of indicatives with imperatives (i.e. to use grammatical terms) is critically important in the first principle of a great marriage – Christ centeredness. 2 Peter 1:3-4 are explicit on this point too.

4 "Whom do I have in heaven but you? On earth there are none I desire beside you." Ps.73:25

5 God is very motivated to bring glory to himself (1Sam.12:22; Isa.43:7; 48:8ff; Hab.2:14; Jn.14:13) and we are to be similarly motivated (Mat.5:16; Ro.8:18ff; 1Cor.10:31; 1Peter 2:9-12). In fact, at the core of rebellion is refusal to glorify God (Romans 1). This is God's point to David when he sinned – (2 Sam.12:8-9) that he despised God, leading to his sin.

6 So, for example, in Genesis 3 I haven't provided summaries or commentary on the parts pertaining to the serpent or the woman.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Genesis 2:18-25 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." ¹⁹ So the Lord God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. ²⁰ He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. ²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. ²³ "At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! <i>She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'</i>" ²⁴ Therefore, a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. ²⁵ Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.</p> | <p>God wanted Adam to have a partner who fit him.</p> <p><i>ezer kenegdo</i> 'a helper that fits him'⁷</p> <p>So, he made animals and had Adam name them.</p> <p>None of them was a fitting partner for him God's first response was to reveal (vv.19-20) & increase (v.23) Adam's need.</p> <p>God rendered Adam unconscious, removed tissue from his side and closed the wound...</p> <p>...then God formed the woman from that tissue and brought her to Adam.</p> <p>"Wow! <i>Finally, the one who fits me,</i>" is another way to translate this.</p> <p>Gen.2:23 the third person reference translated 'this' implies that Adam was not describing but vowing (i.e. 'she is to be one with me' as opposed to 'she is made out of my tissues').</p> <p>This last sentence in v.23 is in passive voice. So, it may be that it is God, not Adam providing the name eeshaw ('isha) as a derivative of the name for man eesh ('ish)</p> <p>Gen. 2:24 is a pronouncement by Adam to God⁸</p> <p>This is how it will be from now on; a man will leave his parents, be joined to his wife and the two will become one flesh.</p> <p>They were <i>naked before one another</i> and felt no shame.</p> |
| <p>Genesis 3:6-19 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God</p> | |

7 'helper' does not mean 'assistant'; in fact most of the 21x 'ezer is used it is used of God toward Israel (16/21) or toward military allies (3/16); thus, this term does not mean inferior but a willing helper. Adam's expression 'bone of my bone & flesh of my flesh' means equal to, the same as, corresponding with. Genesis 2 is a description of Adam from incomplete to complete not from superior to inferior. Genesis 2:21 Derivation of Eve from Adam does not suggest superiority else the ground is superior to Adam Genesis 2:7; Gen.2:23; 3:20 Adam naming 'woman' & 'Eve' is not an indicator of his superiority either but his discernment, any more than Jacob's naming of Bethel makes him superior to the presence of God. Also, in 2:23 the use of passive voice suggests that it is God not Adam who names her 'woman'. Notice also in Genesis 1:26-28 they have the same blessing and responsibilities;

8 To what is 'therefore' pointing? Probably something like this, "Since God created man and woman to be one, Therefore, men and women will enter into the same kind of relationship: leaving others, clinging to one another and becoming one flesh" The term 'therefore' at the head of v.24 points out that what follows is normative for marriage:

really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" ²"Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. ³"It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'" ⁴"You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. ⁵"God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." ⁶The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.

⁷At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

⁸When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. ⁹Then the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked."

¹¹"Who told you that you were naked?" the Lord God asked. "Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?"

¹²The man replied, "It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it."

She gave (the fruit) to Adam *who was with her* and he ate it.

Larry Crabb, *The Silence of Adam*, writes an entire book rooted in the clause, "who was with her". He argues that Adam passively observed Eve's temptation and fall without leading her and then joined her in the rebellion; that the heart of marital problems, for the husband, is failing to actively engage his wife.

Then they suddenly felt shame about their nudity.

So, they made coverings out of leaves.

Later they hid from God as they heard him walking around in the garden

God called out to Adam

Adam admitted that he was hiding from God because he was afraid, because he was nude.

God asked if Adam had eaten the fruit.

Adam said, "The woman you gave me offered me some and I ate it."

The first and still typical reaction to guilt is shifting blame from self to anything else. In this case he blamed Eve ('the woman') and God ('you gave me') before admitting his part ('I ate').

¹³Then the Lord God asked the woman, "What have you done?"

"The serpent deceived me," she replied. "That's why I ate it."

¹⁴Then the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild. You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live. ¹⁵ And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

¹⁶Then he said to the woman, "I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you."

¹⁷And to the man he said, "Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. ¹⁸ It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return."

There will be conflict over control in the marital relationship.

God told Adam that the consequence for listening to Eve was difficult and, often, futile work.

...and death.

Proverbs 5:1-23 My son, pay attention to my wisdom...

³For the lips of an immoral woman are as sweet as honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil. ⁴But in the end she is as bitter as poison, as dangerous as a double-edged sword. ⁵Her feet go down to death; her

The seductress says many enticing things

but she is deadly to you.

steps lead straight to the grave. ⁶For she cares nothing about the path to life. She staggers down a crooked trail and doesn't realize it. ⁷So now, my sons, listen to me. Never stray from what I am about to say: ⁸Stay away from her! Don't go near the door of her house! ⁹If you do, you will lose your honor and will lose to merciless people all you have achieved. ¹⁰Strangers will consume your wealth, and someone else will enjoy the fruit of your labor. ¹¹In the end you will groan in anguish when disease consumes your body. ¹²You will say, "How I hated discipline! If only I had not ignored all the warnings! ¹³Oh, why didn't I listen to my teachers? Why didn't I pay attention to my instructors? ¹⁴I have come to the brink of utter ruin, and now I must face public disgrace." ¹⁵Drink water from your own well - share your love only with your wife. ¹⁶Why spill the water of your springs in the streets, having sex with just anyone? ¹⁷You should reserve it for yourselves. Never share it with strangers. ¹⁸Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you. Rejoice in the wife of your youth. ¹⁹She is a loving deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts satisfy you always. May you always be captivated by her love. ²⁰Why be captivated, my son, by an immoral woman, or fondle the breasts of a promiscuous woman? ²¹For the Lord sees clearly what a man does, examining every path he takes. ²²An evil man is held captive by his own sins; they are ropes that catch and hold him. ²³He will die for lack of self-control; he will be lost because of his great

b/c she cares nothing for righteousness.

she is lost herself

Stay far from her

otherwise you will lose honor and lose everything that matters

Only share love with your wife

why waste your sexuality outside of marriage

Let your wife bless you

Rejoice in her

Let her sexuality satisfy you

Let her love captivate you

why be captivated by another woman

God sees what you are about

An evil man is ensnared by his sins

he will die for lack of self-control

| | |
|--------------|--|
| foolishness. | |
|--------------|--|

| | |
|---|--|
| Proverbs 18:22 The man who finds a wife finds a treasure, and he receives favor from the Lord. Proverbs 19:14 Fathers can give their sons an inheritance of houses and wealth, but only the Lord can give an understanding wife. | A wife is a treasure – a blessing from God Only God can provide an understanding wife |
|---|--|

| | |
|---|--|
| Ecclesiastes 9:9 Live happily with the woman you love through all the meaningless days of life that God has given you under the sun. The wife God gives you is your reward for all your earthly toil. | Live happily with your wife (this sounds like a choice you can make) She is a reward from God |
|---|--|

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Song of Songs | Read this entire book focused on delight. I won't comment on it here. |
|---------------|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| Ephesians 5:21 and be subject to ¹ one another in the fear of Christ. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word ² , that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes ³ it, just as Christ also <i>does</i> the church, because we are members of His body. (cites Gen.2:24) This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference | Subject yourself to your wife out of respect for Christ ¹ <i>hupotasso</i> – to arrange yourself under Agapeo your wife just as Christ did the church and gave himself up for her to sanctify her with the word so that the church would be faultless ² <i>rhema</i> – in this case the term means the specific application of truth in a situation; Mt.4:4 Christ says man lives by every <i>rhema</i> that comes from the mouth of God and then uses scripture to resist Satan. Timely application of scripture seems in view here. We sanctify our wives by our understanding and use of God's truth this goes well beyond becoming our wife's Bible tutor. Agapeo your wife as your own body (i.e. the implication is that she's part of your body) nourishing her cherishing her just as Christ also does the church because we are members of His body ³ <i>thalpo</i> – to warm and hence to tenderly love Summary: Agapeo your wife as your own body |
|---|---|

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>to Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and <i>let</i> the wife see to <i>it</i> that she respect her husband.</p> | <p>See Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:8 & 1 Corinthians 6:16</p> |
|--|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Corinthians 7:3-4 The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs. ⁴The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife.</p> | <p>Fulfill your wife's sexual needs</p> <p>Give her authority over your body</p> |
|---|---|

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them</p> | <p>Love your wife Do not be embittered against her (you can choose forgiveness & forbearance)</p> |
|--|---|

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Peter 2:21-25 ²¹For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. ²²He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. ²³He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. ²⁴He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. ²⁵Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls...</p> <p>1 Peter 3:7 ...In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will</p> | <p>God calls you to do good even if it means suffering</p> <p>Christ suffered for you</p> <p>He never sinned or deceived anyone</p> <p>He did not retaliate when insulted</p> <p>He did not threaten revenge when he suffered</p> <p>He left his case in God's hands – who always judges fairly</p> <p>Christ carried your sins in his body on the cross so you can be dead to sin and live for what is right</p> <p>Christ's wounds healed you</p> <p>You once wandered away from God but now have turned to Jesus He shepherds you and guards you</p> <p>So, honor your wife</p> <p>So, treat your wife with understanding</p> <p>she is your equal partner in the gospel</p> <p>Treat her right so your prayers will not be hindered</p> |
|--|--|

| | |
|------------------|--|
| not be hindered. | |
|------------------|--|