



# CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AND THE HOME

## A DETAILED LOOK AT THE BIBLICAL MATERIAL

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## A DETAILED LOOK AT THE BIBLICAL MATERIAL REGARDING WIVES

**STUDY VERSE SECTION - Ephesians 5:21-24, NIV - <sup>21</sup> Submit** ὑποτάσῃ (Gk: ὑποτάσσω) *hupo* means "under", *tasso* means "to arrange". In the active voice (i.e., military meaning), it would mean to "come under command". "Submit" here is used in the middle voice (i.e., architectural meaning) and means "to come together for a purpose"—order and unity is the focus. (NOTE: Many scholars believe the active voice would *require* submission while middle voice would *request* submission); **to one another**, both husbands and wives, **out of reverence** φόβος (GK: φόβω) gives us our English word *phobia* and means a "fear" or "dread" **for Christ**. I believe Paul used such strong language because of what the status of the home and women had become in those days; <sup>22</sup> **Wives** γυνή (Gk: γυνή) means "female", the word used here (Gk: γυναῖκες) means "one who takes a name", **submit** this word does appear in the Greek in verse 22, it is literally rendered, "Wives, to your husbands, as to the Lord" **to your husbands as** not meaning "submit exactly as you submit to Christ" but meaning "submit in the same spirit" as **to the Lord**. <sup>23</sup> **For the husband is the head** lit., "source" [see top of other side] **of the wife as** a word that can be translated "but"—showing a contrast, **Christ is the head** i.e., source **of the church, his body, of which he** alone **is the Savior**. <sup>24</sup> **Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should** in similar fashion, **submit to their husbands in everything**.

### This scripture could be rendered this way:

*"Because of our understanding of God, husbands and wives will mutually come together for a divine purpose. Because Christ gave Himself for the church—as only He could, the church responded in submission. Likewise, because the husband gives himself to the wife to protect her and provide for her, the wife needs to respond to her husband with supportive submission and respect—as only she can."* –Eph 5:21-24, TCV

### A. An important word about "source" (to husbands)

In Ephesians 5, a critical word is translated "head" ("...the husband is *head* of the wife"). "Headness", in this passage, is akin to being "the source" (biblical/historical understanding) and not about being "the boss" (Western/corporate understanding). Think of the *headwaters* of a river providing *the source* of the water that makes up that river. A wonderful biblical picture of "source" is found in Genesis 2:18-20:

**Genesis 2:18-25, NIV - <sup>18</sup> The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper** עֲזָרָה (ē-zēr), lit., "one who fills a void"] **suitable for him.**" ... <sup>20</sup> **no suitable helper was found [for Adam].** <sup>21</sup> **So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.** <sup>22</sup> **Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.** <sup>23</sup> **The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."** <sup>24</sup> **For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.** <sup>25</sup> **The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.**

- Q: Why she's here? A: You need her! v. 18
- Q: Where she came from? A: God gave her to you! v. 22

- Q: How you are to react? A: This is “bone of my bone!” v. 23-24

## B. Practical Application: “A Word to Wives”

1. Before you take *his* name (i.e., the husband), you need to take *His* name (i.e., The Savior).
2. As long as you look to your husband to meet your deepest needs, you’ll be frustrated perpetually—God meets the deepest of needs.
3. Great is the day, wife, when you realize that ever since the Garden of Eden, males have been missing something—*you!*
4. The relationship between the husband and wife is one governed by unselfish love, where both—*sacrificially*—meet the needs of each other. Husbands, a wife is not a slave, child, or roommate.
5. Eph. 5 does not suggest that women are inferior to men, or that all women must be in subjection to all men.
6. Submission (i.e., respect) is a response to trust.
7. The practical application for this passage is found in v. 33.

**Ephesians 5:33, NIV** - <sup>33</sup> *However, [husbands] must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

8. Showing “respect” is a divine calling to a wife that honors God.
9. Let’s Make it Simple: The Role of a Godly Wife—the *Heart* of the Home:
  - Mold and nurture the kids—*in the Lord!*
  - Manage the household
  - Meet the needs of the husband
  - Model Christ’s spirit in the home



## A DETAILED LOOK AT THE BIBLICAL MATERIAL REGARDING HUSBANDS

**STUDY VERSE SECTION - Ephesians 5:21, 25-33, NIV** - <sup>21</sup> **Submit** *Hypotassō* (Gk: ὑποτάσσω) *hupo* means “under”, *tasso* means “to arrange”. “Submit” here is used in the middle voice (i.e., architectural meaning) and means “to come together for a purpose”—order and unity is the focus; **to one another**, both husbands and wives, **out of reverence** *Phobos* (GK: φόβω) gives us our English word *phobia* and means a “fear” or “dread” **for Christ**. I believe Paul used such strong language because of what the status of the home and women had become in those days—a radical *change of direction* was taking place theologically/socially ... <sup>25</sup> **Husbands** come together with your wives for a divine purpose this way, **love** (Gk: ἀγαπά) “a self-sacrificing love”—this type love is administered both sacrificially and unconditionally in a continuous way (present imperative); **your wives**, *How?* **just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up** to the point of death **for her** <sup>26</sup> **to make her holy** lit., sanctify—“to make holy, to set apart”, **cleansing her by the washing with water through the word**, <sup>27</sup> **and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless**. <sup>28</sup> **In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself**. <sup>29</sup> **After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it** lit., “warms it, fosters with tender care”, **just as Christ does the church—** <sup>30</sup> **for we are members of his body**. <sup>31</sup> **“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”** <sup>32</sup> **This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church** Pont: The home is the church in miniature. <sup>33</sup> **However** here is a application of this passage, **each one of you husbands also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband**, the word “husband” means *vine-dresser* and it most closely associated with our concept of a *gardener*—one who cares for a plant.

## A. An important word about a husbands “love”

### ***It is a Sacrificing Love***

**Ephesians 5:25, NLT** - <sup>25</sup> *For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her ...*

### ***It is a Sanctifying Love***

**Ephesians 5:26-27, NLT** - <sup>26</sup> *to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.* <sup>27</sup> *He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.*

### **It is a Satisfying Love**

**Ephesians 5:28-33, NLT** - <sup>28</sup> *In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself.* <sup>29</sup> *No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church.* <sup>30</sup> *And we are members of his body.* <sup>31</sup> *As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one."* <sup>32</sup> *This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.* <sup>33</sup> *So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself ...*

## **B. Practical Application: "A Word to Husbands"**

1. The relationship between the husband and wife is one governed by unselfish love, where both—*sacrificially*—meet the needs of each other.
2. The word "husband" means *gardener*. It is you that *waters* and *cares for* the wife—you are her *need meeter*. (Observation: A wife's needs are generally security, intimate communication, and sincere praise.) Whatever they are, YOU MUST KNOW AND MEET YOUR WIFE'S NEEDS! (Your calendars/"To-do list" are the battlegrounds.)
3. "Headship" means that you, as husband, are the protector, provider, and pastor (spiritual leader) in your home.
4. "Trust" is the result of predictability, credibility, and transparency. *Make sure you are all three!*
5. Effective husbands know their wife's *love language*: Is your wife's *love language*  Physical touch;  Words of affirmation;  Quality time;  Gifts; and/or  Acts of Service.
6. The practical application for this passage is found in v. 33. "*husbands ... love your wife...*" as Christ loved the church.
7. You make sure that you "*Dialog daily, date weekly, depart monthly—together*" with your wife.
8. Let's Make it Simple: The Role of a Godly Husband—the *Head* of the Home:
  - Provider for the home
  - Protector of the home
  - Primary "need meeter" for the wife
  - Primary significance of the husband should come from the home—not the job.

***"Remember, the husband needs respect and the wife needs love!"***



## **A DETAILED LOOK AT THE BIBLICAL MATERIAL REGARDING CHILDREN**

**STUDY VERSE SECTION - Ephesians 6:1-4, NIV** – *Children* lit., (One who found) "life in the womb", *obey* lit., to hear and do, it speaks of recognizing the authority of *your parents* lit., "one who gives life" **in the Lord**—it is right to obey ... *in the Lord, for this is right.* <sup>2</sup> "*Honor* lit., "place a high value on something" *your father and mother*—**which is the first commandment with a promise**—<sup>3</sup> "*that* conditional phrase—Here's the deal, kids: If you will do something for God—Honor and obey your parents, God says he will do something for you: (1) **it may go well with you and** (2) **that you may enjoy long life on the earth.**" <sup>4</sup> *Fathers* formal language used to address the home—both mother's and fathers, **do not exasperate** lit., *to drain life* from (we get our word *distress* from this word) **your children; instead, bring them up** lit., "nourish to maturity" **in the training** also translated *discipline*, lit., "train by way of commands", this word focuses on helping the child to *do what is right* **and instruction** lit., "correct with words", this word focuses on *correcting what is wrong* in the child's life based on the instructions **of the Lord**.

### **A Brief Word to Parents:**

**Ephesians 6:4, NIV** - <sup>4</sup> *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

- **Encourage** (don't take "life" from them)

- **Discipline** (so they know what is *right*)
- **Instruct** (so they will know what is *wrong*)

A WORD TO ALL KIDS ABOUT YOUR HOME:

# God wants to make a deal with

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WRITE YOUR FIRST NAME IN THIS BLANK

Ephesians 6:1-3, MSG - <sup>1</sup> *Children, do what your parents tell you. This is only right.* <sup>2</sup> *“Honor your father and mother” is the first commandment that has a promise attached to it, namely,* <sup>3</sup> *“so you will live well and have a long life.”*

**If you will...**

1. Obey your parents
2. Honor your parents

**God will let you...**

- A. Live a good life.
- B. Live a long life.

*Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.* <sup>2</sup> *“Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise:* <sup>3</sup> *If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”*

- Ephesians 6:1-3, NLT



## A LOOK AT ADDITIONAL BIBLICAL MATERIAL REGARDING THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

### THE FAMILY

<b>Founded on ...</b>	<b>Based on ...</b>
<b>Divine Creation</b>	Genesis 1:27-28, NIV - <sup>27</sup> <i>So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.</i> <sup>28</sup> <i>God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”</i>
<b>Marriage</b>	Matthew 19:6, NIV - <sup>6</sup> <i>So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together,</i>

	<i>let man not separate."</i>
<b>Monogamy</b>	<b>Exodus 20:14, NIV</b> - <sup>14</sup> "You shall not commit adultery.
<b>Unity of Parents</b>	<b>Exodus 20:12, NIV</b> - <sup>12</sup> "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.
<b>Headship of Husband</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 11:3-7, NIV</b> - <sup>3</sup> 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.
<b>Subordination of Children</b>	<b>Ephesians 6:1-4, NIV</b> - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.
<b>Common Concern</b>	<b>Luke 16:27-28, NIV</b> - <sup>27</sup> "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

## THE HUSBAND

<b>Plan Concerning...</b>	<b>Based on...</b>
<b>One flesh</b>	<b>Matthew 19:5-6, NIV</b> - <sup>5</sup> and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?' <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."
<b>Until Death</b>	<b>Romans 7:2-3, NIV</b> - <sup>2</sup> For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. <sup>3</sup> So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.
<b>Rights of</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 7:1-5, NIV</b> - Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. <sup>2</sup> But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. <sup>3</sup> The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
<b>Sanctified by wife</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 7:14-16, NIV</b> - <sup>14</sup> For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. <sup>15</sup> But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. <sup>16</sup> How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?
<b>Duties of...(toward the wife)</b>	<b>Based on...</b>
<b>Love</b>	<b>Ephesians 5:25-33, NIV</b> - <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.
<b>Live with for life</b>	<b>Matthew 19:3-9, NIV</b> - <sup>3</sup> Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" <sup>4</sup> "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' <sup>5</sup> and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." <sup>7</sup> "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" <sup>8</sup> Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. <sup>9</sup> I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."
<b>Be faithful</b>	<b>Malachi 2:14-15, NIV</b> - <sup>14</sup> You ask, "Why?" It is because the Lord is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. <sup>15</sup> Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not

	<i>break faith with the wife of your youth.</i>
<b>Be satisfied with</b>	<b>Proverbs 5:18-19, NIV</b> - <sup>18</sup> <i>May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. <sup>19</sup> A loving doe, a graceful deer— may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.</i>
<b>Honor</b>	<b>1 Peter 3:5, NIV</b> - <sup>5</sup> <i>For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands,</i>
<b>Provide for</b>	<b>1 Timothy 5:8, NIV</b> - <sup>8</sup> <i>If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.</i>
<b>Not Divorce</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 7:11, NIV</b> - <sup>11</sup> <i>But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.</i>

## THE WIFE

<b>Described as...</b>	<b>Based on...</b>
<b>“A helper”</b>	<b>Genesis 2:18-20, NIV</b> - <sup>18</sup> <i>The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” <sup>19</sup> Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found...</i>
<b>“The husband’s crown”</b>	<b>Proverbs 12:4, NIV</b> - <sup>4</sup> <i>A wife of noble character is her husband’s crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.</i>
<b>“A good thing”</b>	<b>Proverbs 18:22, NIV</b> - <sup>22</sup> <i>He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord.</i>
<b>“The wife of your youth”</b>	<b>Malachi 2:14-15, NIV</b> - <sup>14</sup> <i>You ask, “Why?” It is because the Lord is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. <sup>15</sup> Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.</i>
<b>“Your companion”</b>	<b>Malachi 2:14, NIV</b> - <sup>14</sup> <i>You ask, “Why?” It is because the Lord is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.</i>
<b>Duties of...(toward the husband)</b>	<b>Based on...</b>
<b>Submit to Husband</b>	<b>1 Peter 3:5-6, NIV</b> - <sup>5</sup> <i>For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, <sup>6</sup> like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.</i>
<b>Reverence for her husband</b>	<b>Ephesians 5:33, NIV</b> - <sup>33</sup> <i>However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.</i>
<b>Love her husband</b>	<b>Titus 2:4, NIV</b> - <sup>4</sup> <i>Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children,</i>
<b>Be trustworthy</b>	<b>Proverbs 31:11-12, NIV</b> - <sup>11</sup> <i>Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. <sup>12</sup> She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.</i>
<b>Over her children</b>	<b>Titus 2:4, NIV</b> - <sup>4</sup> <i>Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children...</i>
<b>Be faithful/chaste</b>	<b>Titus 2:5, NIV</b> - <sup>5</sup> <i>to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.</i>
<b>Be a homemaker</b>	<b>Titus 2:5, NIV</b> - <sup>5</sup> <i>to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.</i>
<b>Be exclusive</b>	<b>Proverbs 5:15-17, 20, NIV</b> - <sup>15</sup> <i>Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. <sup>16</sup> Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? <sup>17</sup> Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers... <sup>20</sup> Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man’s wife?</i>
<b>Be satisfying</b>	<b>Proverbs 5:18-19, NIV</b> - <sup>18</sup> <i>May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. <sup>19</sup> A loving doe, a graceful deer— may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.</i>

## THE CHILDREN

<b>Should...</b>	<b>Based on...</b>
<b>Obey God</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 30:2, NIV</b> - <sup>2</sup> and when you and your children return to the Lord your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today,
<b>Fear God</b>	<b>Proverbs 24:21, NIV</b> - <sup>21</sup> Fear the Lord and the king, my son, and do not join with the rebellious...
<b>Remember God</b>	<b>Ecclesiastes 12:1, NIV</b> - <sup>1</sup> Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them"...
<b>Honor parents</b>	<b>Exodus 20:12, NIV</b> - <sup>12</sup> "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.
<b>Obey parents</b>	<b>Ephesians 6:1, NIV</b> - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
<b>Attend to parents teachings</b>	<b>Proverbs 1:8-9, NIV</b> - <sup>8</sup> Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. <sup>9</sup> They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.
<b>Take care of parents</b>	<b>1 Timothy 5:4, NIV</b> - <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.
<b>Honor the aged</b>	<b>1 Peter 5:5, NIV</b> - <sup>5</sup> Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

## DIVORCE

<b>Is hated by God</b>	<b>Malachi 2:16, NIV</b> - <sup>16</sup> "I hate divorce," says the Lord God of Israel.
<b>Reconciliation encouraged</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 7:10-17, NIV</b> - <sup>10</sup> To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. <sup>11</sup> But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife. <sup>12</sup> To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. <sup>13</sup> And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. <sup>14</sup> For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. <sup>15</sup> But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. <sup>16</sup> How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife? <sup>17</sup> Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.
<b>May be allowed for <u>adultery</u>*</b>	<b>Matthew 19:3-9, NIV</b> - <sup>3</sup> Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" <sup>4</sup> "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' <sup>5</sup> and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." <sup>7</sup> "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" <sup>8</sup> Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. <sup>9</sup> I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."
<b>May be allowed for <u>abandonment</u>*</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 7:15, NIV</b> - <sup>15</sup> But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. *NOTE: Please understand that Jesus is not commanding you to divorce if your spouse meets one of these two instances. As a Christian, you must forgive him/her and you may decide not to divorce. In other words, divorce is not an "automatic." <b>Adultery may be grounds for divorce, but sin is always grounds for forgiveness.</b>
<b>Any exceptions? **</b>	<b>Matthew 18:15-18, NIV</b> - <sup>15</sup> "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. <sup>16</sup> But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' <sup>17</sup> If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. **NOTE: This "exception" is going out on a limb. In extremely, extremely rare cases, it may be that 'hardness of heart' might be a third instance for divorce. It would be important that the biblical prescriptions of confrontation are observed and absolutely observed and that all efforts are made to reconcile the marriage. It is strongly suggested that your pastor and

church leadership be consulted prior to selecting this "exception" for divorce.