



English Standard Version

Marriage and Song of Solomon

IN & OUT®

English Standard Version

MARRIAGE AND SONG OF SOLOMON LEARNING HOW TO BECOME ONE

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Marriage and Song of Solomon

Lesson 1, God's Design for Marriage and the Husband's Role

God's Design for Marriage and the Husband's Role

Never have there been so many Christian books on the subject of marriage. Whatever your question, your problem, someone somewhere has written what they believe or have experienced is the answer.

So why spend these next six weeks digging out for yourself what the Bible tells us about marriage? Why not save time—find a book that addresses your situation and tells you what you need to do?

That's one way to do it, but what if they are wrong? What then? Would you even know it if you didn't know for yourself what God says on the subject!?!

O Beloved of God, the Bible is God's book. Men were moved by the Spirit of God to write down EVERYTHING God wants us to know in order to live life HIS way. The Bible is absolute truth, without error containing everything that pertains to life and godliness. God tells us in Isaiah 8:20 that if someone does not speak according His Word, it's "because they have no dawn." In other words, they are in the dark. Psalm 119:105 in turn tells us that His Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. God has not left us in the dark on marriage, so let's begin and learn His precepts that bring understanding (Psalm 119:104).

Single, married, widowed, or divorced—this study will help you see what God teaches so that you might live in a way pleasing to Him (2 Corinthians 5:9).



God begins His book, the Bible, with the book of Genesis and brings it to a close with the book of Revelation. It's interesting that both books reference marriage. So let's begin where God begins

1. Form the habit of beginning your study in prayer. Biblical truth comes by revelation, not by mere intellect, for "... no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:11). Therefore, seek His wisdom and understanding.





Lesson 1, God's Design for Marriage and the Husband's Role

2. Genesis, the first book of the Bible, tells us that in six days God created the world and everything in it.

Therefore, we will begin our study by observing Genesis 1:26-31, which tells us about man's creation on the sixth day.

Your Observation Worksheet for this passage is in the Appendix. An Observation Worksheet is Bible text with wide margins and extra space between the lines, so there's plenty of room to mark and record observations.

Read the text carefully and mark the following:

- a. God*
- b. *man*, including pronouns and synonyms

By marking, we mean use a color or combination of colors and/or a symbol for each word. If you're new at marking, check the Key Word Bookmark on the back of your workbook to see what we mean.

There are suggestions on the bookmark for some words used frequently in the Bible. We'll use an asterisk [*] to show these in this workbook.

3. Genesis 1 gives a broad outline of the creation account. Because of the importance of man and woman's creation, Genesis 2 gives specific details.

Genesis follows a pattern of introducing a subject or person, and then expanding on it, giving the account of what happened.

- a. Read Genesis 2:7-25 using the Observation Worksheet in the Appendix. Mark the following:
 - 1) references to God*
 - 2) *man* and pronouns
 - 3) woman and pronouns
- b. Look at what you marked, and on the chart at the end of this lesson, "God's Design for Man and Woman," note what you learn from Genesis 1:26-31 and Genesis 2:7-25.
- 4. Now we begin our examination of the roles of husband and wife in marriage. A "role" is a function that one performs. It is a prescribed pattern of behavior for performing a specific duty or service.





Lesson 1, God's Design for Marriage and the Husband's Role

As we study the roles of husband and wife, our purpose will be to discover what God sets as a pattern of behavior for each one.

a. Read 1 Corinthians 11:3, 7-9, 11-12 in your Bible and note what you learn on the chart below.

Man Woman

b. As you read and observed this passage of Scripture, you probably noticed references to a specific order of headship. Record this below. You might want to diagram it with words or symbols.

5. Now read Genesis 3:16 in your Bible. After the Fall, what is God's stated position for Adam with respect to Eve?





Lesson 1, God's Design for Marriage and the Husband's Role

- 6. At the end of this lesson is a page "The Husband's Role." Take all you have learned so far, sort out what is pertinent, and record it on this page. You're going to add to this chart, so note the book, chapter, and verse.
- 7. Read the Observation Worksheet of Ephesians 5:22-33 in the Appendix and mark references to the husband. Also mark *love*.
 - a. How does verse 23 compare with what you've learned so far about the husband's role?
 - b. Who is the husband's example of headship? What is the example?
 - c. According to verses 25-33, what is God's command to husbands?
 - d. List what verses 25-33 say about love.

- e. Add your insights to "The Husband's Role."
- 8. Now carefully look at Colossians 3:19 and 1 Peter 3:7. Add any new insights to your page "The Husband's Role."
- 9. There is one more thing we want to look at regarding the husband's role. Read 1 Timothy 5:8 and add pertinent insights on "The Husband's Role."





Lesson 1, God's Design for Marriage and the Husband's Role

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1. If you are a husband, list at least five ways you can love, nourish, and cherish your wife. If you are a wife, how can you make it easier for your husband to do this?

2. If a husband is going to live with his wife in an understanding way and not be bitter or harsh toward her, what are some specific things he would, or should, take into consideration? And how does God's command to the husband to love his wife come into consideration in this question? Do not rush through this question! It is absolutely vital, worthy of prayer and meditation. Record your thoughts below.

3. Finally, prayerfully read what you've written on the page "The Husband's Role" and ask the Lord what is specific for you at this time in your life.





Lesson 1, God's Design for Marriage and the Husband's Role

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Beloved, thank God for His work in your life!





Marriage and Song of Solomon Lesson 1, God's Design for Man and Woman

GOD'S DESIGN FOR MAN AND WOMAN

Insights	Man	Woman
Created by		
Created for		
Created from		
Relationship to God		
Distinctive Characteristics		





Marriage and Song of Solomon Lesson I, The Husband's Role

THE HUSBAND'S ROLE





Marriage and Song of Solomon Lesson I, The Husband's Role



GENESIS 1:26-31

- Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
- 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
- And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
- And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.
- 30 "And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.
- And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.





In Out

GENESIS 2:7-25

- then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.
- 8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.
- 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- 10 A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.
- The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.
- 12 And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there.
- 13 The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush.
- And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.
- 15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.
- And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,





Genesis 2:7-25

- but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
- 18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."
- Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.
- The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.
- 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.
- And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.
- 23 Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones

and flesh of my flesh;

she shall be called Woman,

because she was taken out of Man."

- Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
- 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.





Ephesians 5:22-33

EPHESIANS 5:22-33

- Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
- For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.
- Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.
- Husbands, love your wives, as Christ 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,
- so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.
- In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.
- For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,
- 30 because we are members of his body.
- 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."
- 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.
- However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.