

Christian Marriage

The Bible says: "Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and they become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24). Through the prophet Malachi, God condemns those who break their marriage covenants (Malachi 2:14)

There is no polygamy allowed in Christian marriage. Some Biblical characters were married to more than one woman, but this was in violation of God's intentions for one man-one woman marriage. Marriage is a covenant, not a contract, a covenant for life. Jesus said: "What God has joined together, let not man put asunder." (Mark 10:9)

And because of this intrinsic unity between a man and his wife in marriage, the Bible commands husbands to love their wives in this way: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her... In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself." (Ephesians 5: 25-28). So, if a man wants to know how much he should love his wife, he should look at the example of the Lord Jesus Christ, and how much he loved us to the point of laying down his life so that we may have eternal life!

The Bible commands the wife to be subject to her husband, **as to the Lord** (Ephesians 5:22), and to respect her husband (Ephesians 5:33) This is not a superior-inferior relationship, but rather an organizational one, as the man has the responsibility of making decisions with his wife's interests at heart. A man should consult the wisdom of his wife in making such decisions.

Clearly, if the man loves his wife as much as he loves himself, the wife will voluntarily and gladly submit to and respect her husband.

WOMEN IN THE REST OF THE BIBLE

The inspired writer Peter urged the following: "You husbands, live considerately with your wives, bestowing honor on the woman as the weaker gender, since you are joint heirs of the grace of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered" he wrote (1 Peter 3:7). Assigning honor to a person implies that one values and respects such a one highly. Thus, the man who honours his wife does not humiliate her, downgrade her, or treat her violently. Rather, he demonstrates by his words and his deeds—in public and in private—that he cherishes and loves her.

Women in many cultures are treated dishonorably. They have been physically, mentally, and sexually abused. But that is not the treatment God intended for them. The Bible record clearly shows that no matter what cultural views may prevail, all women should be treated with honor and respect. It is their God-given due.

Conclusions

From the beginning, God created both man and woman to be equal in His sight. Neither of them is inferior or superior to the other. In the Old Testament, there were prophetesses, female judges and many women of honor.

The Lord Jesus Christ confirmed the principle of equality in value between men and women. He demonstrated in his dealings with women, as well as in the writings of the apostles, inspired by the Holy Spirit, that, just like men, women are equal heirs of the grace and eternal life that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Women in the Bible



***What is the
Christian
teaching about
women?***

The basic principles of the status of women in the Bible are those of equality and honour

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

The Bible's teaching about women is based upon the foundation laid in the book of Genesis, the first book in the Bible. God's intentions for men and women are spelled out clearly there. The first statement about gender in the Bible is one of equality and honour. God the Holy Trinity said: "Let us make humanity in our image, after our likeness ... So God created humans in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)

After He created the first man, The Lord God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a **helper** suitable for him." (Genesis 2:18)

The word "**helper**" does not imply that the woman was inferior or subservient to the man; as the same Hebrew word, "ezer", translated as "**helper**," is used to describe God, Himself, in the book of Psalms (33:20, 70:5, 115:9-11). God made women equal custodians of all His creation.

Status of Women in the Bible

There are prophetesses mentioned in the Bible. They included Miriam, the sister of Moses (Exodus 15), Deborah, who was both a prophetess and a Judge in Israel, to whom the people of Israel came up for legal rulings (Judges 4) and Anna, the daughter of Phan'u-el (Luke 2). Contrary to common practice which listed only males, the Bible includes four women in the genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 1). The last one mentioned is Mary, the mother of Jesus.

One full chapter in the Bible is dedicated to praising the good wife, who is described as one who is far more precious than jewels, one who gains the full trust of her husband (Proverbs 31:10-11).

The Bible honored Virgin Mary as the angel Gabriel addressed her as "The one favored by the Lord" (Luke 1). Mary fulfilled the ancient prophecy that "the seed of a woman" would overcome Satan (Genesis 3:15) when she gave birth to Jesus Christ. This was confirmed by the Holy Spirit speaking through Paul's writings: "When the time has fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." (Galatians 4:4).

How Did Jesus Treat Women?

The Lord Jesus Christ consistently treated women with respect. He refused to follow the discriminatory traditions and regulations taught by the Pharisees. He talked to non-Jewish women, at a time when Jews were not talking to Samaritans at all, and it was to that Samaritan woman that Jesus, for the first time, plainly identified himself as the Messiah (John 4:7-9, 25, 26). Jesus described the faith of a Canaanite woman as 'great' (Matthew 15:21-28).

He taught women (Luke 10:38-42) and protected them from being abandoned by their husbands by confirming that it was not lawful for a man to divorce his wife except for marital unfaithfulness (Mark 10:11, 12). Perhaps the most revolutionary

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step for his time was that Jesus accepted women into his inner circle of friends (Luke 8:1-3).

In his healing miracles, Jesus made no distinction in treating men and women. He healed a woman with a spirit of infirmity describing her as "daughter of Abraham" (Luke 13: 10-16). He praised the poor widow who donated two copper coins into the treasury, and described her little gift as greater than all the others (Luke 21: 1-4).

As the perfect embodiment of all of God's qualities, Jesus showed that individuals of both genders have equal value in God's eyes. In fact, among the early Christians, both men and women received the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4, 17, 18).

After Jesus was resurrected, his first appearance was to Mary Magdalene and another of his disciples, whom the Bible refers to as "the other Mary." Jesus could have appeared first to Peter, John, or one of the other male disciples. Instead, he dignified women by allowing them to be the first eyewitnesses of his resurrection. An angel instructed them to inform Jesus' male disciples about this astonishing event (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24 and John 20).