

These questions are answered not by discounting what God requires of men and women but by seeing how the instruction to each should benefit the other. **Biblical leadership requires a man to place his family's interests above his own.** He uses his leadership to enable each member of the family to know the care of God. A woman who submits to such headship is not feeding a man's selfishness but rather is supporting the godly nurture of her family.

Neither spouse abdicates biblical responsibilities but rather fulfills the biblical definition of love that "is not self-seeking" (1 Cor. 13: 5). Widespread misunderstanding of these biblical standards, even among those who are trying to do what God requires, is both a cause and a consequence of the family breakdown in our society and the tenacious orientation to self that resides in every heart.

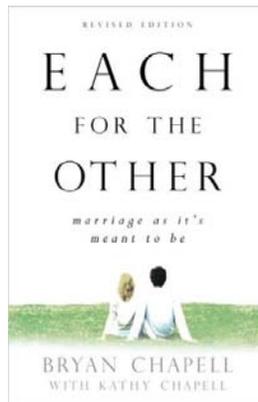
Both factors tempt us to dispense with biblical instruction when it does not conform to cultural trends, or to use the Bible selectively to serve our own interests. Not only does this departure from Scripture distance us from the relationships God intends, it also endangers the next generation of families.

Without long-term, Christian models, it is extremely difficult to know .. what God expects in our homes. Neither teaching individuals more Bible facts nor introducing them to the doctrinal distinctives of a particular church will secure the kinds of families God wants. A young man raised in a legalistic home does not automatically know how to be a father and husband because he learns the Greek word for each. A woman neglected by her parents throughout her childhood will still yearn to know if she is nurturing her children correctly long after a three-hour seminar on biblical mothering.



Bryan Chappell

[We need godly models. But in the absence of such Christ is the model for both husband and wife.]



FATHER'S DAY, 2016

Sacrificial Love

But what does it mean to serve one another in marriage? Is a man to ignore the Bible's command to be the spiritual leader in the home? Should a woman be a doormat to her husband's demands?





Our Home

Marital Bliss?

(Matthew 11:28-30) *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. {29} Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. {30} For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

As we seek to find satisfaction in our marriages we need to make two clear statements about marital love:

1. Marital love begins as a

_____ (a _____),

(Proverbs 2:10-12) *"When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul, {11} Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, {12} To deliver you from the way of evil, ...,"*

(Proverbs 2:16-17) *"To deliver you from the immoral woman, From the seductress who flatters with her words, {17} Who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God."*



(Malachi 2:14) *".. the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant."*

(1 John 3:16-18) *"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. {17} But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? {18} My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."*

2. Marital love grows as a _____ (a _____ - _____ relationship), Songs 2:3-14

(Genesis 2:15) *"Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it."*

(Genesis 2:18) *"And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.""*

(Genesis 2:24) *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."*

(Malachi 2:14) *".. the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With*



whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant."

(Deuteronomy 6:4) *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!"*

(1 Corinthians 6:16) *"Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh.""*

(Genesis 6:17) *"And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die."*

