

“The biblical concept of marriage is best described as a covenant (or a creation ordinance with covenantal features), a sacred bond between a man and a woman, instituted by and publicly entered into before God (whether or not this is acknowledged by the married couple), normally consummated by sexual intercourse...

...Rather than being merely a contract that is made for a limited period of time, conditional upon the continued performance of contractual obligations by the other partner, and entered into primarily or even exclusively for one's own benefit, marriage is a sacred bond that is characterized by permanence, sacredness, intimacy, mutuality, and exclusiveness."

—Andreas Köstenberger,  
*God, Marriage, and Family*, 91

“We may define ‘family’ as, primarily, one man and one woman united in matrimony (barring death of a spouse) plus (normally) natural or adopted children and, secondarily, any other persons related by blood [e.g., grandparents, uncles, etc].”

—Andreas Köstenberger,  
*God, Marriage, and Family*, 93

“There are some things a man simply must have before he is qualified to assume the role of a Christian husband. For instance, he must be a Christian (2 Cor 6:14); he must be committed to biblical headship (Eph 5:23ff.); he must welcome children (Ps 127:3-5); he must be a suitable priest (Josh 24:15), prophet (Eph 6:4), protector (Neh 4:13-14), and provider (1 Tim 5:8; Titus 2:5)...

...A man who does not possess—or at least show strong signs of—these and other basic characteristics does not meet the basic job description laid down for husbands in the Bible.”

—Voddie Baucham,  
*What He Must Be...If He Wants to Marry My  
Daughter, 17*

## Duties of the Husband/Father:

- To lead his family to abandon idols and to serve the Lord - Joshua 24:15
- To love his wife as Christ loves the church - Ephesians 5:25
- To lovingly understand the unique needs of his wife and to honor his wife - 1 Peter 3:7
- To provide for the physical needs of his household - 1 Timothy 5:18
- To raise up his children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord - Ephesians 6:4

## Duties of the Husband/Father (cont'):

- To teach his children the wisdom of God - Proverbs 1-7
- To protect his children from sinful influences - Proverbs 1, 13, 22
- To lovingly discipline and correct his children - Hebrews 12:9
- To not provoke his children to anger - Colossians 3:21
- To prepare his children for marriage - Proverbs 31
- To command his entire family to walk in the way of the Lord - Genesis 18:19

“God created the woman because man needed her help. That is a Bible basic. She was created as a suitable helper to stand with him in life to help in every way. That is another basic. The idea of woman as helper is a key concept that has been lost in modern marriages. It is a key that has disappeared from contemporary thinking. A woman does not conceive of herself as a helper anymore...

...Many women think rather of themselves as those who ought to be helped. Or the modern woman thinks of herself as somebody who stands in exactly the same place as her husband. She many have many ideas about her role, but among them she probably does not embrace the notion of herself as a helper. Yet that is God's definitive word about her role."

—Jay Adams, *Christian Living in the Home*, 48

## Duties of the wife/mother:

- To submit to and support the leadership of her husband - Ephesians 5:22
- To honor and respect her husband - Ephesians 5:33
- To be more concerned with holiness than physical beauty - 1 Peter 3:3
- To exemplify a meek and quiet spirit to the entire family - 1 Peter 3:4

## Duties of the wife/mother (cont'):

- To prioritize her responsibilities as a "worker at home" - Titus 2:5
- To teach her children the ways and truth of God - Proverbs 1
- To assist her husband in raising up the children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord - Ephesians 6:1-4
- To assist her husband in preparing the children for marriage - Proverbs 31

## Duties of children:

- To honor their father and mother - Exodus 20:12
- To obey their parents while in their household - Ephesians 6:1
- To learn from their parents - Ephesians 6:4
- To view their parents as their primary disciplers - Deuteronomy 6:4-9

## Duties of children (cont'):

- To cheerfully submit to the discipline and correction of their parents - Hebrews 12:9
- To find a spouse under the guidance of their parents - Proverbs 31
- To honor the wishes of a prospective spouses' parents - Numbers 30, 1 Corinthians 7:36ff.
- To financially and physically care for their elderly parents - 1 Timothy 5:16