

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Calvert, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Ms. Donna Law, Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mr. Owens, Ms. Sowder, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.  
Out of Town: The Dowlings

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: [www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com](http://www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com)
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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God's Design for the Home - Marriage

By Derek Long

God created man and designed the family relationships which make up the home. The family structure is under attack and has been under attack for many years. In order for the Lord's church to function as it should, the home must function as it should. For example, 1 Timothy 3:15 speaks about the church as being the "house of God" (NKJV). Our interaction with one another as Christians is based upon how we would treat people within our homes (1 Timothy 5:1-2). In addition, the Lord's church will fail to have elders and deacons if our homes are not following God's pattern (1 Timothy 3:2, 4-5, 11-12; Titus 1:6). Let's examine what God's plan is for the home and especially focus on the marriage relationship in this first article.

God created marriage in the beginning when He made Eve to be a companion to Adam (Genesis 2:18-24). Marriage serves several purposes: 1. It provides one with companionship (Genesis 2:18). 2. It provides one with a lawful place to fulfill sexual desires (1 Corinthians 7:1-5; Hebrews 13:4). 3. It provides the lawful means of having children to propagate the human race (1 Timothy 2:15; 5:14). 4. It provides an opportunity to grow and develop together into servants of Christ (1 Peter 3:7). 5. It provides one with joy (Ecclesiastes 9:9). I am sure

you might be able to come up with other purposes behind marriage but these are just some of them.

God created marriage to be a relationship between a male and a female. Genesis 1:26-27 tells us God created two genders (male and female). Marriage is based upon a man and a woman being joined by God (Genesis 2:24). Same sex relationships are sinful in God's sight (Romans 1:26-28; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Jude 7).

God created marriage to be a relationship for life. Genesis 2:24 a man being joined to his wife. Jesus points out if God joins a man and his wife together, then man should not separate what God has joined together (Matthew 19:6). Romans 7:2-3 and 1 Corinthians 7:39 points out marriage is a life-long relationship. Jesus gave one reason why a person might divorce their spouse and marry another - fornication (Matthew 5:32; 19:9). Today we live in a world where divorce has become a common and accepted way of life. Malachi 2:16 reminds us plainly though God hates divorce. Husbands and wives need to be committed to each other. They need to have a commitment to remain loyal to each other when things are easy and when things are challenging.

God created the marriage relationship to be structured where the wife is in submission and the husband is the head. Ephesians 5:22-24; Colossians 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1-6 all point out it is God's plan for the wife to be submissive to her husband. Our society today wants to get away it seems from the concept of submission overall and especially wives being submissive to their husbands. God's word still stands though as the truth for how our home ought to function. Submission basically means to rank oneself under another. Submission does not imply infe-

riority (Jesus is submissive to the Father but is not inferior to Him - 1 Corinthians 11:3). Submission means the wife recognizes that ultimately the husband will be responsible for leading the home and making the decisions. A wise husband will certainly value and appreciate his wife's input in the making of decisions but the decision is ultimately his to make.

God created the marriage relationship to be structured where the husband loves and honors his wife (Ephesians 5:25-29; Colossians 3:19; 1 Peter 3:7). A loving and respectful husband makes it easier on his wife to be submissive. A husband's love for his wife is to be patterned after Christ's love for the church (Ephesians 5:25-27) and after his love for himself (Ephesians 5:28-29). A husband who is unwilling to sacrifice his own desires and wants for the betterment of his wife and family is not being the kind of husband God teaches him to be. A husband who treats his wife worse than he treats himself is not the kind of husband God wants him to be. Husbands need to be aware of their wives needs and seek to see their needs are met just as they would seek to meet their own needs.

God created marriage to reflect the relationship between Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:22-33). When wives submit to their husbands as they should, they display the sort of submission the church displays to Christ. When husbands love their wives as they should, they display the sort of love Christ has for the church. Let's make sure our marriages follow God's pattern. Such marriages will certainly be a blessing as God intended for them to be. Such marriages will allow us the opportunity to glorify God as others see the types of spouses we are as Christians.