GOD’S DIVINE ORDER FOR MARRIAGE

(Eph. 5: 22–33, 1Pet. 3: 1–7)
OUTLINE

- God’s Divine arrangement/order for Marriage – What is it?
- Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 in context
- Wives Submit to your Husbands – Biblical Meaning
- Husbands love your wives – Biblical Meaning
- Crucial Leadership Role of Man
OUTLINE

- How to implement Divine Order
- How to submit
- How to love
- Typical Reasons for non-adherence
- Benefits of adhering to Divine arrangement
- Consequences of non-adherence
God’s Divine arrangement/order for Marriage – What is it?

**EPHESIANS 5 IN CONTEXT**

Introduction -- 1:1–2

The blessings and position received by the church in Christ -- 1:3--3:21

The living and responsibility needed for the church in the Holy Spirit -- 4:1–6:20

Conclusion -- 6:21–24
God’s Divine arrangement/order for Marriage – What is it?

- The living and responsibility needed for the church in the Holy Spirit -- 4:1--6:20
- The living and responsibility needed in the Body of Christ -- 4:1–16
- The living needed in the daily walk -- 4:17--5:21
- The living needed in ethical relationships -- 5:22--6:9
  - Between wife and husband -- 5:22–33
God’s Divine arrangement/order for Marriage – What is it?

FIRST PETER 3 IN CONTEXT

Introduction -- to the sojourning believers under the operation of the Triune God -- 1:1–2
The full salvation of the Triune God and its issues -- 1:3–25
Growth in life and its results -- 2:1–10
The Christian life and its sufferings -- 2:11--4:19
The Christian life and its sufferings -- 2:11--4:19

Life manners toward all men in all concerns -- 2:11--3:13 ....

- Toward human institutions -- 2:13–17
- Servants toward masters -- 2:18–20
- The model of Christ -- 2:21–25
- In marriage life -- 3:1–7
SUMMARY

God’s Divine arrangement/order for Marriage as found in Eph. 5 and 1 Pet. 3

Eph. 5:21 applies to the general relationship among the brethren in the body of Christ while vrs 22 is specific to married couples

1 Pet 3: 1–7 shows marriage entails a form of suffering/sacrifice in the Christian life
Wives Submit to your Husbands – Biblical Meaning

22 1a Wives, be b subject 2 to your 3 own husbands as to the Lord; 23 For a husband is 1a head of the wife as also Christ is b Head of the church, He Himself being the 2 Savior of the Body. 24 1 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also let the wives be subject to their husbands in 2 everything.
25 Husbands, \( ^1 \) love your wives even \( ^2 \) as Christ also \( ^b \) loved the church and gave Himself up for her .... 27 That He might \( ^1 \) present the \( ^2 \) church to Himself \( ^3 \) glorious, not having \( ^4 \) spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be \( ^5 \) holy and \( ^d \) without blemish. 28 In the same way the husbands also ought to \( ^a \) love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his own wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but \( ^1 \) nourishes and \( ^b \) cherishes it, even as Christ also the church,
Husbands love your wives – Biblical Meaning

30 Because we are members of His Body.  
31 For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh.  
32 This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.  
33 Nevertheless you also, each one of you, in the same way love your own wife as yourself; and the wife should fear her husband
Therefore, headship is not a right to command and control. It's a responsibility to love like Christ: to lay down your life for your wife in servant leadership. Headship is the divine calling of a husband to take primary responsibility for Christ-like servant leadership, protection, and provision in the home.

And submission is not slavish or coerced or cowering. That's not the way Christ wants the church to respond to His leadership: He wants it to be free and willing and glad and refining and strengthening. Submission is the divine calling of a wife to honor and affirm her husband's leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts.
Rights and Responsibility for both, but Man’s leadership role very crucial for successful marriage

Eph 5:33 (Amp Version). However, let each man of you [without exception] love his wife as [being in a sense] his very own self; and let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband [that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly].
Crucial Leadership Role of Man

- Gen 2:15–25; 3:1–6 => The fall of Adam but not fall of Eve

- Sarah leads Abraham => Birth of Ishmael ....

- Abraham leads Sarah => Isaac ...
Organogram of God’s Divine Order for Marriage
How to implement Divine Arrangement

The Greek word for submit is: hypotasso
1) arrange under, subordinate; 2) yield to one's admonition or advice

Lk 22:42 .... “Not My will, but Yours be done!” => The essence of biblical submission

A wife submits primarily, and in reverence to God and not because her husband necessarily deserves it or the wife is inferior Eph 5:22
How to implement Divine Arrangement

Phil 4: 13 – I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who [a]infuses inner strength into me; I am [b]self–sufficient in Christ’s sufficiency] (Amp).

Martha & Mary Lk. 10:38–42; Mt.6: 32–33
Pray together as family
Give him helpful suggestions as his helper... (Gen 3, Pr. 31:12,36)
Value his opinions ....

Keep your house in order.. (Pr. 31:27).
Accept constructive criticism ..... 
Choose words rightly (Pr.15:1, Ecl10:4)
Practical Ways to Submit

- Remember requests and fulfill them....
- Speak well of him before others ...
- Take interest in him and what he does.....
- Show appreciation ....
- Sincere apologies .....
- Defer to him/Let him have final word (Eph. 5:33 applies to all above)
Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.... 1 Cor 13: 4–7 (NIV)
Practical Ways to Love

Demonstrate Love through:

- Words
- Actions and Behavior
- Gestures

Communication Between Husband and Wife;

- Words = 7%;
- Facial Expression/body movements = 55%
- Voice Tone = 38%
Practical Ways to Love
Practical Ways to Love

- Pray together as family
- Compliment her
- Encourage her to be happy when moody or down
- Seek her opinions
- Appreciation/Sincere Apologies
- Encourage verbal expression of negative emotions
- Share intimate secrets
Practical Ways to Love

Love is giving...
SOMEONE YOUR
UNDIVIDED ATTENTION
Practical Ways to Love

- Give them your undivided attention
- Touch them.
- Do something complicated for them that takes effort.
- Reinforce an inside joke or memorable moment.
- Do/wear something you know the other likes
- 7 Seconds Hug/Kiss rule
Practical Ways to Love

I hear you, but I'm not listening!
Practical Ways to Love
Practical Ways to Love

- Do small gifts more often instead of large gifts rarely
- Plan something to do together
- Surprise them with something/meal they like
- Introduce them to everyone you know – and proudly.
- Make room for them in your life
- Love language
How to implement Divine Arrangement

23. Christ => Head => Authority
   Christ => Savior => Love.

24. Subjection of wives to husbands = absolute, BUT, obedience is not.

Obeying is different from being subject. With obedience, the emphasis is on compliance, whereas with subjection, the emphasis is on subordination.

Subjection without obedience possible .....(Dan. 3:13–30)
How to implement Divine Arrangement

Submission ...... Headship ........

Chicken and Egg Scenario ..... 

Each playing his/her role and ... 

** Honouring others .... and not being wise in yourselves ...... Rom 10:12, 16
Typical Reasons for non-adherence

1. Strong-willed woman
2. Low Self-Esteem
3. Failure of Past Relationship
4. Lack of Knowledge
5. Lack of respect
6. Criticism/Judgmental attitude
7. Cultural background e.g. she is not behaving like a woman, Its my right etc
Typical Reasons for non-adherence

8. Individual background and Upbringing

9. External influence/wrong advice (Friends, in-laws etc)

10. Controlling attitude

11. Immaturity (emotional or psychological)
Benefits of adhering to Divine arrangement

God’s order of blessing (Ps. 133:1–3)

1 Pet. 3:7,

Elijah and Elisha 2 Kings 2: 9–13

Power in numbers Deut. 32:30, Ecl 4:12, Mt 18:19

Health Benefits
Consequences of non-adherence

- 1 Sam. 15: 1–35. Emphasis on 3, 8–11, 13–35
- Daniel 10: 1–14, 20–21
- Eve leading Adam => Fall of man;
- Sarah leading Abraham => Birth of Ishmael
- Confusion e.g. carnage on our roads in developing countries
MAY GOD HAVE HIS WAY IN OUR MARRIAGES, REPAIR AND RESTORE ALL THAT HAS BEEN LOST AND USE OUR MARRIAGES FOR HIS GLORIFICATION… AMEN