



# Marriage God's Way

Ephesians 5:21 "... *be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.*"

**Introduction:** ("We" means Thor & Trish. "I" means Thor.)

About 25 years ago we were having trouble in our marriage. We were perplexed. We decided that we would turn to God's Word. Using an exhaustive concordance we looked up every place in the Bible where it mentioned husband, wife, marry, wedding, etc. We read them, prayed over them and discussed them. We focused on the verses that spoke to us and are doing our best to obey what God told us. (i.e. Thor focused on the husband's obligations and Trish focused on the wife's obligations.) After 40+ years of marriage we are deeply in love.

This course contains much of what we learned. We leave out the scriptures that turned out not to be informative to us, like the marriage of Ahab and Jezebel. (which could serve as a negative example perhaps) However, you may want to try the exhaustive concordance method instead of, or in addition to, this course. Any married couple in the Bible might serve as some kind of example -- a basis for discussion between a husband and wife, if nothing else. Communication is very important to a marriage and any tool that helps it to be carried out in a Godly way is a good idea.

It is very important that as you study the Bible (using this course or in some other way) that we apply what we learn to ourself, not to others, especially not our spouse. Happiness in marriage comes from being a good spouse much more than from having a good spouse.

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This course is designed to be used in a small group setting or for a couple to have Bible study together.

**Suggested couple methodology for each lesson:**

1. Pray (Ask for wisdom and leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
2. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
3. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Both of you should give your opinion. Our answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is based on Scripture.)
4. On the final "Think & Pray" question each of you should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down his or her own thoughts about how it applies to himself or herself before the discussion.  
**This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
5. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Both of you should share your answer. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
6. Repeat steps 4 and 5 for all of the "For further thought questions."
7. Close in prayer (Both of your should pray aloud.)

Different couples will take different amounts of time. Don't rush it.

See next page for suggested methodology for small groups.

### **Suggested small group methodology for each lesson:**

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. Our answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is based on Scripture.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. The final "Think & Pray" question should always be covered, because that is when everyone takes a quiet moment to listen to the Teacher, the Holy Spirit. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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**Lesson 1- Adam & Eve** (Genesis 1, 2 & 3)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[1A] Genesis 1:26-28 In Whose image were people created? \_\_\_\_\_

[1B] Genesis 2:7-9 What was the man made out of? \_\_\_\_\_

[1C] Genesis 2:15-17 Did God tell Adam not to touch the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? \_\_\_\_\_

[1D] Genesis 2:18-20 What did God say about the man being alone? \_\_\_\_\_

[1E] Genesis 2:21-23 What was the woman made of? \_\_\_\_\_

[1F] Genesis 2:24-25 What does joining a man and a woman make them? \_\_\_\_\_

[1G] Genesis 3:1-7 What did Eve add to God's instructions? \_\_\_\_\_

[1H] Genesis 3:8-13 Which of the guilty parties stood up and took responsibility for what they had done? \_\_\_\_\_

[1I] Genesis 3:14-16 What was Eve's punishment? \_\_\_\_\_

[1J] Genesis 3:17-19 What was Adam's punishment? \_\_\_\_\_

[1K] Genesis 3:20-21 Who named Eve? \_\_\_\_\_

[1L] Who suffered the consequences of Adam's sin? (Hint Romans 5:12-14)

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

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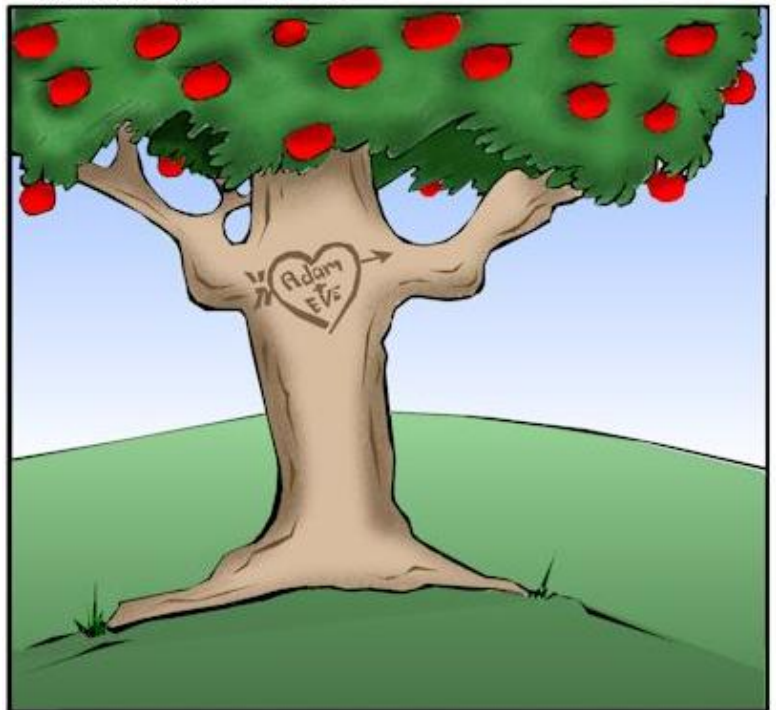
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**Questions for each couple to discuss with their spouse:**

How can you apply Genesis chapters 1, 2 and 3 to your marriage?

Memorizing which verse or passage would most help you remember this?

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil  
**Genesis 2:17**

----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 1- Adam & Eve** (Genesis 1, 2 & 3)

[1A] Genesis 1:26-28 In Whose image were people created? God's

[1B] Genesis 2:7-9 What was the man made out of? Dust Gn 2:7

[1C] Genesis 2:15-17 Did God tell Adam not to touch the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

No, just don't eat from it. (Notice Eve is not created until verse 22.)

[1D] Genesis 2:18-20 What did God say about the man being alone? It is not good. (Notice this is the first time the phrase "not good" is used in the Bible. About everything else He made it says "God saw that it was good." Gn 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, & 31.)

[1E] Genesis 2:21-23 What was the woman made of? Adam's rib

[1F] Genesis 2:24-25 What does joining a man and a woman make them? One flesh

[1G] Genesis 3:1-7 What did Eve add to God's instructions? "or touch it" Gn 3:3

[1H] Genesis 3:8-13 Which of the guilty parties stood up and took responsibility for what they had done? Nobody. They all blamed someone else.

[1I] Genesis 3:14-16 What was Eve's punishment?

Increased pain in childbirth and subjection to her husband

[1J] Genesis 3:17-19 What was Adam's punishment? Difficult work

[1K] Genesis 3:20-21 Who named Eve? Adam

[1L] Who suffered the consequences of Adam's sin? All of us. The lesson here is that we are not the only one who suffers the consequences of what we do wrong. Certainly our spouse and our children will bear the brunt of it, but relatives, friends and descendants will all have their share in our failures. In some cases strangers will also suffer.

**For further thought:**

(1m) In Genesis 2:18-20 Adam is found to be incomplete and in need of help. Is this still true of men?

(1n) Thinking about Genesis 3:3 | Why did Eve add "or touch it" to the Lord's instructions?

(1o) What do you suppose would have happened if Adam had said, "This is all my fault. Please don't hold Eve responsible for it."

(1p) Thinking about Genesis 3:16 | What does, "Yet your desire will be for your husband," mean?

**Thor's further thoughts:**

(1m) I think this is true of all people. That doesn't necessarily mean everyone should be married, but I think it means we can be much more useful to God if we work together as a team, than working by ourselves. We need to be accountable to one another and support each other in prayer and substance. However, many people try to find "completeness" in something other than serving God in fellowship -- petting puppy dogs, life consuming hobbies, burying themselves in their careers, etc.

(1n) I can just picture the devil coiled around the branch of the tree as he said, "You surely will not die!" demonstrating that "or touch it" was a lie and leading her to doubt God's commandment. I think Adam added the extra instruction because he did not trust his wife. The lesson is to trust your spouse with the whole truth. Or it might be, to listen more carefully to each other.

(1o) I don't know what would have happened, but I feel sure that if Adam had been more like Christ, and asked to take the punishment for all, that the history of the world would be quite different.

(1p) I'm not sure, but it might mean that even after the pain of child birth women would still desire intimacy with their husbands.

**Lesson 2 - Abigail & Nabal** (1 Samuel 25:1-44)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[2A] 1 Samuel 25:1-3 How is Abigail described? \_\_\_\_\_

[2B] 1 Samuel 25:4-6 Who did David send to carry a message to Nabal? \_\_\_\_\_

[2C] 1 Samuel 25:7-9 What did they do after they had delivered David's message? \_\_\_\_\_

[2D] 1 Samuel 25:10-12 How would you characterize Nabal's answer? \_\_\_\_\_

[2E] 1 Samuel 25:13-15 How did David respond? \_\_\_\_\_

[2F] 1 Samuel 25:16-17 How did Nabal's servant characterize Nabal? \_\_\_\_\_

[2G] 1 Samuel 25:18-22 What were David's intentions? \_\_\_\_\_

[2H] 1 Samuel 25:23-25 Who did Abigail ask David to blame? \_\_\_\_\_

[2I] 1 Samuel 25:26-27 To whom did Abigail offer the food? \_\_\_\_\_

[2J] 1 Samuel 25:28-31 What did Abigail predict about David? \_\_\_\_\_

[2K] 1 Samuel 25:32-35 Who sent Abigail to David? \_\_\_\_\_

[2L] 1 Samuel 25:36-38 Did Abigail keep what she had done secret from Nabal? \_\_\_\_\_

[2M] 1 Samuel 25:39-44 What happened to the Nabal's widow? \_\_\_\_\_

[2N] Colossians 3:18 says "Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord," and 1st Peter 3:1 says "... wives, be submissive to your own husbands ..." and yet the Lord blesses Abigail for what she does which was clearly against her husband's wishes. How can this be explained?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Questions for each couple to discuss with their spouse:**

How can you apply 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel chapter 25 to your marriage?

Memorizing which verse or passage would most help you remember this?



**Nabal insults David's servants and mocks David. BAD MOVE. 1 Samuel 25:9-11**

----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 2 - Abigail & Nabal** (1 Samuel 25:1-44)

- [2A] 1 Samuel 25:1-3 How is Abigail described? Intelligent and beautiful
- [2B] 1 Samuel 25:4-6 Who did David send to carry a message to Nabal? Ten young men
- [2C] 1 Samuel 25:7-9 What did they do after they had delivered David's message? They waited
- [2D] 1 Samuel 25:10-12 How would you characterize Nabal's answer?  
Negative, demeaning (Called "scorn" in v. 14)
- [2E] 1 Samuel 25:13-15 How did David respond? He prepared for battle
- [2F] 1 Samuel 25:16-17 How did Nabal's servant characterize Nabal? Worthless and heedless
- [2G] 1 Samuel 25:18-22 What were David's intentions? To slaughter Nabal and all his men
- [2H] 1 Samuel 25:23-25 Who did Abigail ask David to blame? Herself (also see verse 28)
- [2I] 1 Samuel 25:26-27 To whom did Abigail offer the food? David's men
- [2J] 1 Samuel 25:28-31 What did Abigail predict about David? An enduring heritage, victory in all battles, ruler of Israel, the Lord's blessings (At least. There might be more.)
- [2K] 1 Samuel 25:32-35 Who sent Abigail to David? The Lord God of Israel
- [2L] 1 Samuel 25:36-38 Did Abigail keep what she had done secret from Nabal?  
No. She waited for him to sober up
- [2M] 1 Samuel 25:39-44 What happened to the Nabal's widow? David married Abigail

[2N] In 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 25:32 David let's us know that it was the Lord who sent Abigail. Abigail submitted to God rather than her husband. This is what all wives should do. This is a lesson for us all. The Lord must come above all other considerations. We believe that happiness in marriage comes from God, not from our spouse. We believe He will bless us with joy for being a good spouse, regardless of the nature of our spouse. To put it more succinctly - Happiness in marriage comes from being a good spouse, not from having a good spouse.

**For further thought:**

- (2o) Who is the most Christ like person in this story? What does this tell us?
- (2p) What evil did Abigail prevent? So what?
- (2q) What did Abigail think of Nabal? What can we learn from that?
- (2r) When did Abigail reveal what she had done to Nabal? What is the lesson in that?

**Thor's further thoughts:**

- (2o) Abigail is the most Christ like. She asks David to blame her for Nabal's sin even though she is innocent. (1Sm 25:24 & 28). That tells us Abigail was one of God's children. Are you?
- (2p) Abigail prevented a battle in which many innocent people would have been killed. She prevented David from taking vengeance for himself, instead of letting God be God. The point is that her own situation would have been improved if she had done nothing. She would have been rid of a fool of a husband, but she was more interested in right and wrong than the comfort of her circumstances. This is a lesson for all husbands and wives.
- (2q) Abigail believed her husband to be a worthless fool and yet she saved his life and returned to him even when she probably could have taken refuge with David and his men. Again, she demonstrates that she is more concerned with morality than personal comfort.
- (2r) Abigail waited until Nabal was sober. This should remind us that the timing of our communication is important. Reminding our spouse of shortcomings, if done at all, should be done with great care.

**Lesson 3- Matthew on Marriage** (Select verses from Gospel of Matthew)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[3A] Matthew 1:18-20 Why did Joseph plan to send her away secretly? \_\_\_\_\_

[3B] Matthew 18:25 Who was sold to pay the man's debts? \_\_\_\_\_

[3C] Matthew 19:1-3 What was the topic of the Pharisees' question? \_\_\_\_\_

[3D] Matthew 19:4 What categories were we divided into from the very beginning? \_\_\_\_\_

[3E] Matthew 19:5 How do we bridge this division? \_\_\_\_\_

[3F] Matthew 19:6 Who should separate what God has joined together? \_\_\_\_\_

[3G] Matthew 19:7 Who established a method for divorce? \_\_\_\_\_

[3H] Matthew 19:8 Why was a method for divorce established? \_\_\_\_\_

[3I] Matthew 19:9 What does Jesus say is the only reason for divorce? \_\_\_\_\_

[3J] Matthew 19:10 Who said it might be better not to marry? \_\_\_\_\_

[3K] Matthew 19:11-12 According to Jesus were they correct? \_\_\_\_\_

[3L] Matthew 24:36-39 What will we be doing right up until Jesus' returns? \_\_\_\_\_

[3M] Matthew 27:19 Who advised Pilate that Jesus was a righteous man? \_\_\_\_\_

[3N] What does Matthew 19:5 mean by, "... the two shall become one flesh?"

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
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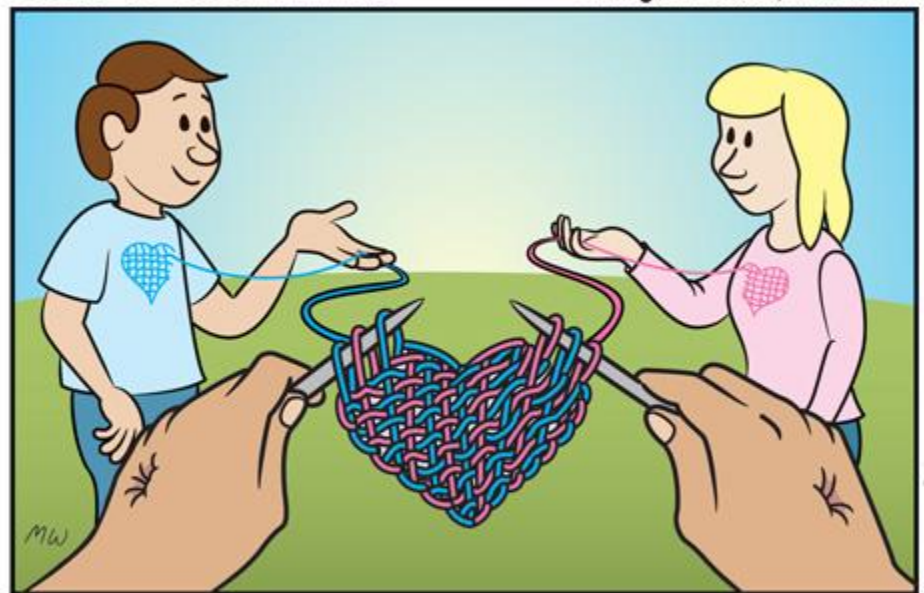
**Questions for each couple to discuss with their spouse:**

How can you apply what we learned from Matthew to your marriage?

Memorizing which verse or passage would most help you remember this?

**JOINED TOGETHER**

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate. — MATTHEW 19:6 NIV

----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 3- Matthew on Marriage** (Select passages from Gospel of Matthew)

- [3A] Matthew 1:18-20 Why did Joseph plan to send her away secretly? Avoid public disgrace for her.  
Even though he felt he had been gravely wronged he still wanted to show her kindness.
- [3B] Matthew 18:25 Who was sold to pay the man's debts? His wife and children
- [3C] Matthew 19:1-3 What was the topic of the Pharisees' question? Legality of divorce
- [3D] Matthew 19:4 What categories were we divided into from the very beginning? Male & Female  
(Genesis 1:27 & 5:2)
- [3E] Matthew 19:5 How do we bridge this division? Marriage makes us once again into one flesh  
(Genesis 2:24)
- [3F] Matthew 19:6 Who should separate what God has joined together? No man
- [3G] Matthew 19:7 Who established a method for divorce? God through Moses (Deuteronomy 24:1-4)
- [3H] Matthew 19:8 Why was a method for divorce established? the hardness of our hearts
- [3I] Matthew 19:9 What does Jesus say is the only reason for divorce? Immorality  
(The Greek implies sexual misconduct)
- [3J] Matthew 19:10 Who said it might be better not to marry? The disciples
- [3K] Matthew 19:11-12 According to Jesus were they correct? Partially correct. For some people it is better not to marry
- [3L] Matthew 24:36-39 What will we be doing right up until Jesus' returns? Living a normal life.  
Marriage is a normal part of life.
- [3M] Matthew 27:19 Who advised Pilate that Jesus was a righteous man? His wife What does that tell us about what kind of relationship they had?

[3N] One of the things that is clear throughout the Bible is that your family, particularly your spouse, will reap some of the consequences of your sins. (See Matthew 18:25 for example.) It is also clear that although many consequences are shared, others are not. For example, Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt, not Lot. Of course, there were some consequences for Lot from that, but they did not involve a transformation into salt. However, there does seem to be a bit more going on than just that. In a passage about personal holiness, 1 Corinthians 6:16 says "Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, 'The two shall become one flesh'."

**For further thought:**

- (3o) Does Matthew 19:29 imply that we should divorce our spouse for God's sake?
- (3p) In John 2, Jesus attends a wedding feast in Cana. Does this tell us anything about marriage?
- (3q) In John 4:16-18 Jesus teaches us something about marriage. What?
- (3r) In Matthew 22:29-30 what do we learn about marriage?

**Thor's further thoughts:**

- (3o) Not at all. But it does mean that we should do everything we do for the Lord, including loving our spouse.
- (3p) Not that I can think of, but it does tell us that Jesus approves of wedding celebrations.
- (3q) Living with someone does not make you married in the eyes of God.
- (3r) In the future marriage will not always be practiced.



**Lesson 4- Paul on Marriage** (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:1-40)

In this chapter Paul switches back and forth between giving his opinion and preaching the word of God. Paul is careful to distinguish between the two. He explains his purpose in writing about these issues and it is clear he is simply giving his opinions as an example of how to apply the overall Godly principles he is teaching us.

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[4A] 1 Corinthians 7:1-3 How many spouses should we each have? \_\_\_\_\_

[4B] 1 Corinthians 7:4-7 Who has authority over our body? \_\_\_\_\_

[4C] 1 Corinthians 7:8-9 In Paul's opinion it would be good if what? \_\_\_\_\_

[4D] 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 Does Paul approve of divorce? \_\_\_\_\_

[4E] 1 Corinthians 7:12-16 Is your spouse not being a Christian grounds for divorce? \_\_\_\_\_

[4F] 1 Corinthians 7:17-20 In what condition should be be content? \_\_\_\_\_

[4G] 1 Corinthians 7:21-24 Does that mean we should not try to improve our circumstances? \_\_\_\_\_

[4H] 1 Corinthians 7:25-31 Is it a sin to marry? \_\_\_\_\_

[4I] 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 What does Paul give as his reasons for talking about these issues? \_\_\_\_\_

[4J] 1 Corinthians 7:36-38 Is Paul is talking about a choice between good and evil? \_\_\_\_\_

[4K] 1 Corinthians 7:39-40 How long is marriage intended to last? \_\_\_\_\_

[4L] 1 Corinthians 7:1-40 What is the main thing Paul says about marriage in this chapter? What is his most important point?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

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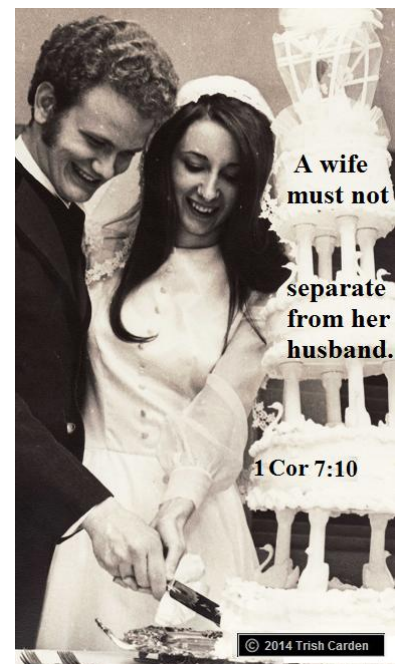
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**Questions for each couple to discuss with their spouse:**

How can you apply what we learned from First Corinthians chapter 7 to your marriage?

Memorizing which verse or passage would most help you remember this?



**Thor & Trish Carden**  
December 1972

----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 4- Paul on Marriage** (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:1-40)

- [4A] 1 Corinthians 7:1-3 How many spouses should we each have? One
- [4B] 1 Corinthians 7:4-7 Who has authority over our body? Spouse
- [4C] 1 Corinthians 7:8-9 In Paul's opinion it would be good if what? If everyone remained unmarried
- [4D] 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 Does Paul approve of divorce? Only in some circumstances
- [4E] 1 Corinthians 7:12-16 Is your spouse not being a Christian grounds for divorce? No
- [4F] 1 Corinthians 7:17-20 In what condition should we be content? The one in which God calls us.
- [4G] 1 Corinthians 7:21-24 Does that mean we should not try to improve our circumstances? Not at all.  
Taking steps to improve your circumstances does not mean you are discontent. It is wise to strive for better, if you can without jeopardizing what God has called you to do.
- [4H] 1 Corinthians 7:25-31 Is it a sin to marry? No, but it is an obligation that can be troublesome at times. If you marry just make sure it is God's will, and not just yours.
- [4I] 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 What does Paul give as his reasons for talking about these issues?  
(1) For our benefit. (2) Not to put a restraint on us. (3) to promote what is appropriate.  
(4) to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord. (1 Cor 35)
- [4J] 1 Corinthians 7:36-38 Is Paul talking about a choice between good and evil?  
No, between good and better
- [4K] 1 Corinthians 7:39-40 How long is marriage intended to last? For as long as they both shall live
- [4L] Paul thinks he is better able to serve God as an unmarried man, and although he thinks that would be a good example for everyone to follow, he understands that what is true for him, may not be true of everyone. So he urges everyone to make their decisions about marriage in terms of how they can best serve God. The important point for us is that we should make sure we are not making demands on our spouses that makes it more difficult for them to serve God. I don't just mean only those things that we actually ask them for, but also the expectations that have built up between us over the years that might be making it difficult for them to walk with God as they should. When was the last time you examined your spousal expectations in that light?

**For further thought:**

- (4m) Is being divorced a sin?
- (4n) In 1st Corinthians 7:14-16 it seems to be saying that just being married to a Christian is enough to get you into heaven. What does it mean?
- (4o) Compare 1st Corinthians 7:36-38 between several different versions. What did you learn?

**Thor's further thoughts:**

- (4m) Not necessarily. It takes two to make a marriage, but it only takes one to make a divorce. Even if you are the one who brings about the divorce, it is not the unforgivable sin.
- (4n) I think it means two things: (1) That if you are a Christian, God will bless your children through you regardless of your spouse, as long as you are obedient to the Lord. (2) What better way to live a testimony for Jesus Christ before a lost person, than to be married to one? I'm not suggesting that you marry a lost person in order to do this, but if you find yourself a believer married to an unbeliever, try to think of it is an opportunity more than a problem.
- (4o) The issue you may have surfaced is that the Greek here is ambiguous. What is meant depends on what question Paul was answering. (verse 1 says, "Concerning the things about which you wrote...") Since we don't know that, it is translated based on the what they believe Paul is talking about. It might mean a man is free to not marry a woman to whom he is engaged. It might also mean that a father is free to not allow his daughter to wed. Neither interpretation matters to the point Paul is making -- it is the interests of God's kingdom that are paramount, not our desires.

**Lesson 5- Jesus Christ & His Bride** (Ephesians 5:15-33)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

- [5A] Ephesians 5:15-21 Who are we to be subject to? Each other. \_\_\_\_\_
- [5B] Ephesians 5:22 How are wives to be subject to their own husbands? \_\_\_\_\_
- [5C] Ephesians 5:23 Who is Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
- [5D] Ephesians 5:24 In how much are wives to be subject to their husbands? \_\_\_\_\_
- [5E] Ephesians 5:25 How much are husbands to love their wives? \_\_\_\_\_
- [5F] Ephesians 5:26 How does Christ clean the church? \_\_\_\_\_
- [5G] Ephesians 5:27 To whom is the church presented? \_\_\_\_\_
- [5H] Ephesians 5:28 How are husbands to love their wives? \_\_\_\_\_
- [5I] Ephesians 5:29 What do people do with things they love? \_\_\_\_\_
- [5J] Ephesians 5:30 Of Whose body are we all members? \_\_\_\_\_
- [5K] Ephesians 5:31 Who do we leave behind when we are married? \_\_\_\_\_
- [5L] Ephesians 5:32 What is the topic of this passage? \_\_\_\_\_
- [5M] Ephesians 5:33 How are husbands supposed to love their wives? \_\_\_\_\_

[5N] Ephesians 5:32 What does it mean by "This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church"?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Questions for each couple to discuss with their spouse:**

How can you apply what we learned from Ephesians 5 to your marriage?

Memorizing which verse or passage would most help you remember this?



----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 5- Jesus Christ & His Bride** (Ephesians 5:15-33)

[5A] Ephesians 5:15-21 Who are we to be subject to? Each other. Out of respect for Jesus Christ

[5B] Ephesians 5:22 How are wives to be subject to their own husbands? As to the Lord

[5C] Ephesians 5:23 Who is Jesus Christ? Head of the church, and savior of the body

[5D] Ephesians 5:24 In how much are wives to be subject to their husbands? In everything

[5E] Ephesians 5:25 How much are husbands to love their wives?

They are to give themselves up for her

[5F] Ephesians 5:26 How does Christ clean the church? With the washing of the word

[5G] Ephesians 5:27 To whom is the church presented? To Jesus Christ

[5H] Ephesians 5:28 How are husbands to love their wives? As their own bodies

[5I] Ephesians 5:29 What do people do with things they love? Nourish and cherish them

[5J] Ephesians 5:30 Of Whose body are we all members? Of the body of Jesus Christ our Lord

[5K] Ephesians 5:31 Who do we leave behind when we are married? Our parents

[5L] Ephesians 5:32 What is the topic of this passage? Christ and the church

[5M] Ephesians 5:33 How are husbands supposed to love their wives? As themselves

[5N] Our marriage is not about us, or at least not just about us. It is about demonstrating to a lost and dying world how much God loves them. It is difficult to grasp how much God loves us when we talk about it in the abstract. But when we can see a husband devoted sacrificially to his wife, and a wife respecting her husband we have a concrete example that makes it much easier to understand God's love and which can draw others to the Lord.

**For further thought:**

(5o) If we neglect our bodies and do not take care for them, who pays the consequences?

(5p) How many commands does Paul give wives and how many to husbands in this passage?

(5q) Ephesians 5:22-24 seem to imply that wives are supposed to be completely obedient to their husbands without limit. Is this true?

**Thor's further thoughts:**

(5o) We do in pain and poor health, but sometimes the emotional frustration and physical strain of caring for our neglected unhealthy bodies falls even harder on our spouse and possibly our families as well. So who are we taking care of when we take care of our health?

(5p) This may vary a little depending on your interpretation, but I see it this way:

Verses that apply to the husband 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32

Verses that apply to the wife 22, 24

Verses that apply to both 21, 23 (mostly husband), 31 (mostly husband), 33

(5q) The topic of this passage is Christ and the church. As we have seen in some of the other lessons there are definite limits to what a wife is required to submit herself to. Her husband is a sinful man, not a sinless Jesus Christ. She should be as submissive as possible within the scope of godliness to the limit of what is humanly possible. If her husband is a selfless follower of Jesus Christ she won't find many inconsistencies between what her husband desires of her and what God desires of her. If her husband is a self centered tyrant she will need to be constantly on her guard. Her decisions must always be guided by the goal of marriage - a testimony of Jesus Christ and His church. One thing that is crystal clear, it is not the husband's responsibility to define for her how obedient she must be. That is between her and God.

**Lesson 6- Love** (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:1-13)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[6A] 1 Corinthians 13:1 Without what are angelic languages just noise? \_\_\_\_\_

[6B] 1 Corinthians 13:2 If we perform great miracles but are still nothing, what is missing? \_\_\_\_\_

[6C] 1 Corinthians 13:3 What keeps great sacrifice from being spiritually profitable? \_\_\_\_\_

[6D] 1 Corinthians 13:4 What is patient and kind? \_\_\_\_\_

[6E] 1 Corinthians 13:5 What is not provoked? \_\_\_\_\_

[6F] 1 Corinthians 13:6 What rejoices in truth? \_\_\_\_\_

[6G] 1 Corinthians 13:7 What endures all things? \_\_\_\_\_

[6H] 1 Corinthians 13:8 What never fails? \_\_\_\_\_

[6I] 1 Corinthians 13:9-10 When will the partial or incomplete be done away with? \_\_\_\_\_

[6J] 1 Corinthians 13:11 What do we do when we become mature? \_\_\_\_\_

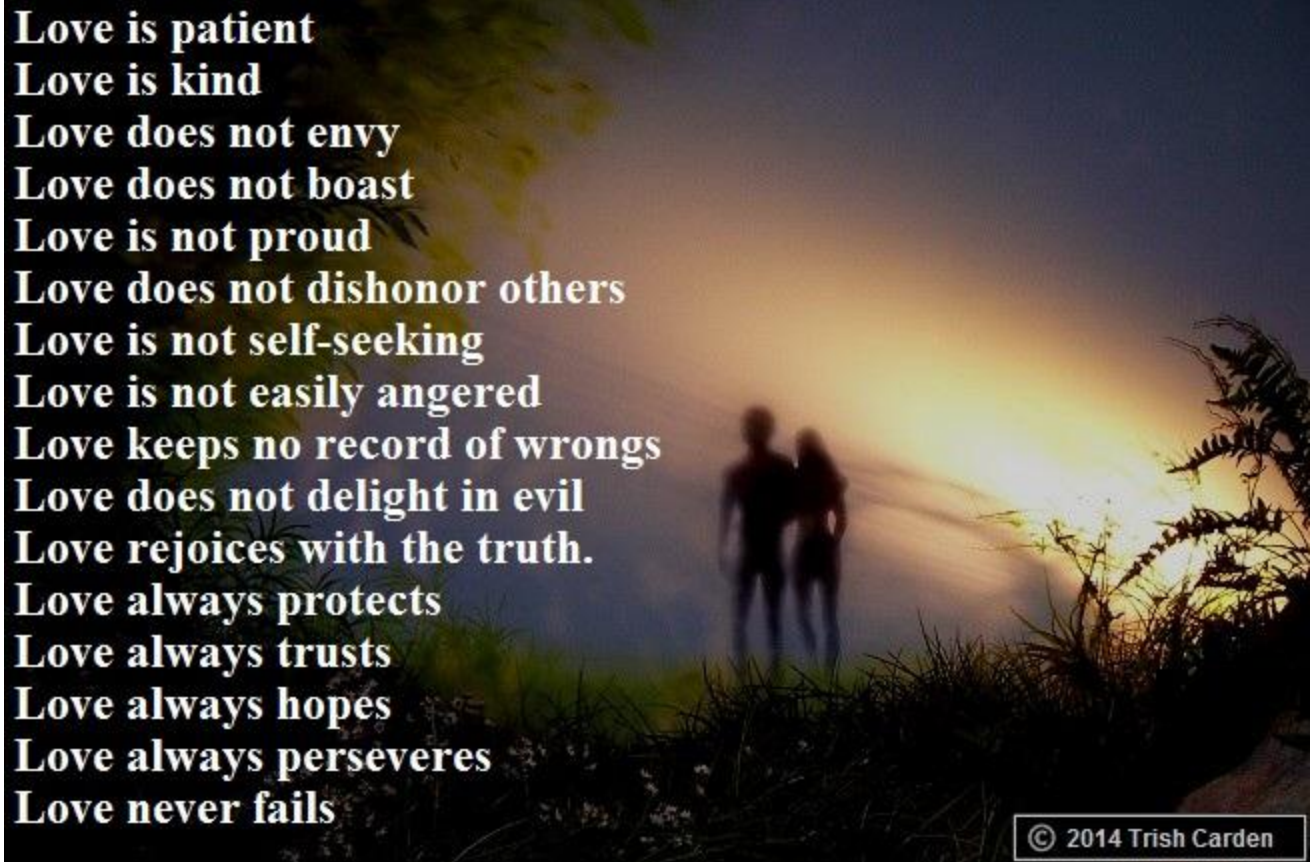
[6K] 1 Corinthians 13:12 In the end, how much will we know? \_\_\_\_\_

[6L] 1 Corinthians 13:13 Love is greater than faith and hope? Why do you think Paul told us that love is the greatest?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Love is patient**  
**Love is kind**  
**Love does not envy**  
**Love does not boast**  
**Love is not proud**  
**Love does not dishonor others**  
**Love is not self-seeking**  
**Love is not easily angered**  
**Love keeps no record of wrongs**  
**Love does not delight in evil**  
**Love rejoices with the truth.**  
**Love always protects**  
**Love always trusts**  
**Love always hopes**  
**Love always perseveres**  
**Love never fails**

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----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 6- Love** (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:1-13)

- [6A] 1 Corinthians 13:1 Without what are angelic languages just noise? Love  
[6B] 1 Corinthians 13:2 If we perform great miracles but are still nothing, what is missing? Love  
[6C] 1 Corinthians 13:3 What keeps great sacrifice from being spiritually profitable? Lack of love  
[6D] 1 Corinthians 13:4 What is patient and kind? Love  
[6E] 1 Corinthians 13:5 What is not provoked? Love  
[6F] 1 Corinthians 13:6 What rejoices in truth? Love  
[6G] 1 Corinthians 13:7 What endures all things? Love  
[6H] 1 Corinthians 13:8 What never fails? Love  
[6I] 1 Corinthians 13:9-10 When will the partial or incomplete be done away with?  
When the perfect comes  
[6J] 1 Corinthians 13:11 What do we do when we become mature? Put away childish things  
[6K] 1 Corinthians 13:12 In the end, how much will we know? We will know fully

[6L] God's word says love is the greatest so it is. The Bible is not explicit as to why, so anything we say is speculation. In my opinion, when we reach heaven our hopes will be realized and our faith fulfilled. Faith and hope will no longer be necessary. Similarly before the creation God loved us enough to bring us into existence, so love existed before faith and hope. In fact, it is His love that gives birth to our faith and hope. Perhaps the best reason is what it says in 1st John 4:16, "God is love." It never says "God is faith", or "God is hope."

How can you apply this to your marriage?

**For further thought:**

(6m) Is love an action or a feeling?

**Thor's further thoughts:**

(6m) Love is actions. For example, for your spouse you could:

- Give them gifts
- Prepare food and wait on them
- Say encouraging words
- Offer them sympathetic listening ears
- Intercessory prayer (also laying hands on is good)
- Protecting their person, property, and reputation as you would your own
- Worshiping God with them
- Reading and studying His word with them
- Spending your time with them
- Show them other random acts of kindness

What could you add to this list of examples of love in action? Which of these are you already doing. Which ones are you planning? Why not all of them?

**For further study:**

(6y) Find and study other married couples in the Bible such as Abraham & Sarah, Joseph & Mary, etc.

(6z) Use a concordance to look up the word "love" in the Bible. It appears almost 500 times. Read and discuss some of these.