

*Q How do you show your wife that you love her as Christ loved the church?*

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*Q How do you show submission to your husband as to the Lord?*

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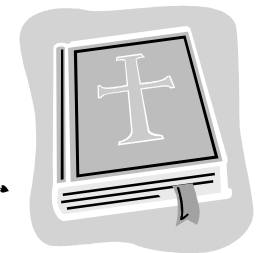
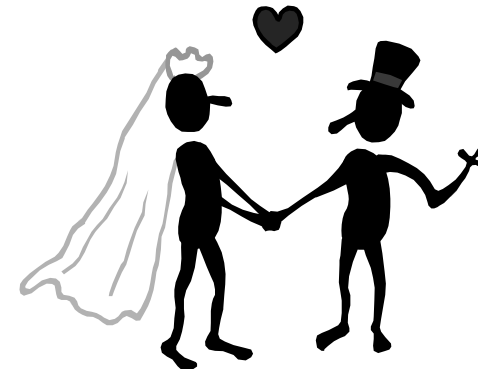
**1 Cor: 7**

<sup>1</sup>Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. <sup>2</sup>But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. <sup>3</sup>The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup>The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup>Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

# Relationship

*Through the looking glass*

A short study on ...



*from the bible's perspective*



6. Choose *LIFE* under God ... or *LIFE* under *Curse*

## 1. Man in partnership with God the creator

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.  
<sup>2</sup> Now the earth was <sup>[1]</sup> formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.  
<sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be **light**," and there was light. ...  
<sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be an **expanse between the waters to separate water from water**." <sup>7</sup> So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning-the second day.  
<sup>9</sup> And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry ground "**land**," and the gathered waters he called "**seas**." *And God saw that it was good.*  
<sup>11</sup> Then God said, "Let the land produce **vegetation**: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. *And God saw that it was good.* <sup>13</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning-the third day. <sup>14</sup> And God said, "Let there be **lights** in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made two great lights-the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. *And God saw that it was good.*  
<sup>19</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning-the fourth day.  
<sup>20</sup> And God said, "Let the water teem with **living creatures**, and let **birds** fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." <sup>21</sup> So God

## 5. Jesus restores the effects of the curse

When Jesus came he restored all things. He calmed the seas, healed the sick, cast out demons and raised the dead. All the corruption of the fall was overturned by his power and authority.  
When Jesus died on the cross he also restored our relationship with God. Through his death, the moment of disobedience by Adam and Eve has been wiped away once and for all. Although we don't see the full benefits of this until Jesus returns, God still treats us like he did Adam and Eve before they disobeyed. This helps our relationships greatly. Living under the love and Lordship of Jesus means that we are motivated to love others because of his love for us, demonstrated on the cross.

### Unity and Equality

#### **Ephesians 5:22 -6:4**

<sup>22</sup>*Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.* <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.  
<sup>25</sup>*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her* <sup>26</sup>to make her holy, cleansing<sup>[2]</sup> her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup>and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup>In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- <sup>30</sup>for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.

*Q What motivates us to love our partners in these ways?*

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## 2. Man in partnership with woman...under God's rule

<sup>18</sup> The LORD God said, "It is *not good* for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

<sup>19</sup> Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for Adam <sup>[10]</sup> no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs <sup>[11]</sup> and closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>

Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib <sup>[12]</sup> he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup> The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called 'woman, <sup>[13]</sup> '  
for she was taken out of man."

<sup>24</sup> For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and *they will become one flesh.*

<sup>25</sup> **The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.**

## 3. Union gone wrong

### Genesis 3

<sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

<sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman you put here with me-she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup> So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all the livestock  
and all the wild animals!  
You will crawl on your belly  
and you will eat dust  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring <sup>[14]</sup> and hers;  
he will crush <sup>[15]</sup> your head,  
and you will strike his heel."

#### 4. The curse

*Q What do you think the biggest relationship problems are?*

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*Q What do you think lies behind these problems?*

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<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said,  
"I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing;  
with pain you will give birth to children.  
**Your desire will be for your husband,  
and he will rule over you."**

<sup>17</sup> To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,'  
"Cursed is the ground because of you;  
**through painful toil you will eat of it  
all the days of your life.**

<sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you,  
and you will eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow  
you will eat your food  
until you return to the ground,  
since from it you were taken;  
for dust you are  
and to dust you will return."

created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. **And God saw that it was good.**

<sup>22</sup> God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." <sup>23</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning-the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures **according to their kinds**: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. **And God saw that it was good.**

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "**Let us make man in our image**, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, <sup>[2]</sup> and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> **God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."**

<sup>29</sup> Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground-everything that has the breath of life in it-I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

<sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, **and it was very good.**  
And there was evening, and there was morning-the sixth day.