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**Lesson Six: Husbands and Wives.**

**Introduction.** In our first lesson we noted that in God’s establishment of the family he set the husband and wife as the core relationship within the home. In our final lesson we shall consider some ways in which husbands and wives, in their treatment of one another have a powerful impact on the spiritual well-being of each other.

**I. God’s Establishment of Marriage** (Gen. 2:15-25).

A. Why did God establish marriage (Gen. 2:18)?

B. List three things involved in marriage (Gen. 2:24): 1)

 2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3)

1. What might be some problems if any of these elements are not present?

2. What is meant by becoming “one flesh” (cf. 1 Cor. 6:15-17)

**II. The Nature of Marriage** (Mal. 2:13-15).

A. Explain the phrase “wife by covenant” (Mal. 2:14).

1. What does it mean that God is “witness” to this covenant (Mal. 2:3)?

2. Who unites a man and wife (Mal. 13:15; cf. Matt. 19:6)?

**III. Divine Organization in the Home** (Eph. 5:22-33).

A. What does it mean that the husband is “head” (Eph. 5:22-24)?

1. How might a husband fail to fulfill this role?

B. What are some elements of the wives role (1 Tim. 5:14; Titus 2:4-5)?

C. What are some challenges involved in God’s design for submission in the home (Eph. 5:24; Gen. 3:16; Titus 2:5)?

1. How might husbands or wives fail in this divine design?

**IV. Proper Behavior Toward One Another in the Home.** .

A. What is a husband commanded to do towards his wife (Eph. 5:25, 28, 33)?

1. List three things that this is to be patterned after: 1)

 2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3)

2. What does it mean for a husband to dwell with his wife “with understanding” (1 Pet. 3:7)?

3. How may the husband “give honor to the wife” (1 Pet. 3:7)?

B. What is a woman commanded to do towards her husband (Eph. 5:33)?

1. What might be some ways a woman fails to do this?

2. What is a woman to do if she has questions about church conduct (1 Cor. 14:34-35)?

 What does this infer about what she must be willing to do?

3. Is the wife commanded to love her husband (Titus 2:4)?

C. Do the following behaviors conform to the instructions we have just considered?

* Talking bad about our mate to others?
* Withholding sexual intimacy from one another for spite?
* Ignoring one another’s feelings?
* Making fun of our mate?
* Interrupting our mate when they are speaking?

D. Explain the phrase “heirs together of the grace of life” (1 Pet. 3:7)?

1. What can cause prayers to be “hindered”

1. What are some ways husbands and wives can help each other go to heaven?