

God's Blueprint For The Home

Lesson 3: God's Blueprint For Marriage



Discovering God's Word
Bible Study Series

God's Blueprint For The Home

Lesson 3: God's Blueprint For Marriage

Learn about the permanence of God's design for marriage and some mutual physical and spiritual responsibilities between those who are married

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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

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About the author: My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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Lesson 3:

God's Blueprint For Marriage

Marriage is the very closest of all earthly relationships. And, having marriages that are built according to God's blueprint are crucial to the success of any home. Unfortunately, Satan is at work in this world trying to destroy marriages – and is having great success!

Satan is not only trying to destroy marriages by means of divorce, but he is also at work to ruin this relationship by making it as miserable as possible for everyone who is involved. He does not want husbands and wives to fulfill their God-given responsibilities in the home. He wants marriages to be about self and wants to keep husbands and wives from functioning as one unit.

Thankfully, God has revealed His perfect blueprint for marriage! Not only has God revealed specific responsibilities for husbands and wives (as we'll discuss in lessons four and five), but He has also helped us to understand some fundamentals about the marital relationship. These fundamentals are absolutely crucial to the success of any marriage and home.

As we consider the blueprint for the home God has given us, we must consider the marriage covenant and the seriousness of entering this covenant with another. Although Satan tries to get us to believe differently, marriage is *not* something that can rightfully be ended if things “don't work out.”

Instead, God has designed a permanence about marriage. Then, He has assigned mutual responsibilities for husbands and wives of both a physical and spiritual nature.

The Permanence Of Marriage

It is common for marriages today to end in divorce. It is often said that nearly half of all marriages end in divorce. Now, I suppose that number could be higher or it could be lower. Regardless, it is plainly observable that many people today do not respect the marriage covenant. Instead, they commonly believe that if their marriages do not turn out the way they had hoped, they can just divorce or separate and possibly even marry another. However, we need to consider God's blueprint to understand what God intends for the duration of the marriage covenant.

The marriage covenant

We have previously studied the fact that God is the Creator and Designer of marriage. And, as He has designed marriage, He has told us that marriage is a kind of covenant (agreement) that is the closest of all earthly covenants we can make. For instance, consider Malachi 2:14-16.

“Yet you say, ‘For what reason?’ Because the Lord has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. ‘For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence,’ Says the Lord of hosts. ‘Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously.’”

Marriage is a covenant agreement between two people. According to God's blueprint, this agreement must *only* be between one man and one woman. These two individuals make an agreement with one another (in connection with the marriage

laws where they are being married) to be joined together in this closest of all earthly relationships. So, they are making a very serious promise to one another to live as husband and wife. In our society, marriage ceremonies involve the exchanging of vows (i.e. to love, honor, and cherish one another for life through sickness, health, prosperity, poverty, etc. for as long as they both live).

Now, if this was all that we knew about the marriage covenant, this *should* be enough. For, we know that God does not approve of breaking vows that are made (see Ecclesiastes 5:4). God does not approve of those who lie (see Revelation 21:8). And, this is precisely what someone does whenever he/she does not fulfill the marriage covenant!

But, to make the marriage covenant even more serious, we must recognize that all Scriptural marriages (i.e. marriages that have God's approval) also involve God as a central part of their union. For, it is God who binds people together in Scriptural marriages. For instance, Proverbs 2:16-17 issues a warning about the immoral woman who tries to seduce one who is not her husband. She is said to forsake "the companion of her youth" and forget "the covenant of her God."

Jesus also taught us that God is directly involved in all Scriptural marriages. He said that "they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate" (Matthew 19:6). Even though a husband, wife, or both may decide to break their covenant with one another, they cannot break the bond with which God has joined them (as we will see later)!

So, we must recognize that marriage is very serious business. It is not a "let's try it out and see if it works" kind of relationship. It is the most solemn of all earthly relationships and involves a covenant agreement between spouses and God! Therefore, we should take a moment to warn anyone who is contemplating marriage (either now or in the future) to not take marriage lightly!

Those who consider entering the marriage covenant with another must exercise great care in selecting a spouse. Make sure that the one you are preparing to marry is the one you want to spend your *entire* life with. Most importantly, make sure that you

know the individual well enough that you have confidence that individual will help you serve God faithfully throughout your life and fulfill his/her God-given responsibilities.

Bound for life

The fact that marriage is a covenant tells us a great deal about the permanence of marriage. For, covenants are very serious and God does not approve of covenant-breaking. But, we can learn even more about the permanence of marriage in the Scriptures.

Let's focus again on the fact that God binds two people together in marriages that have His approval. Consider Romans 7:2-3. "For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man."

As we saw from Matthew 19:6, God is the one who binds these two together. Now, this verse helps us to see that they are bound together "by the law." This is *not* the marriage law of whatever country or state you live in. Instead, it is also called "the law of her husband." So, this is God's marriage law.

Notice, then, how long this bond lasts. The passage says that "the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives." It is only when "the husband dies" that "she is released from the law of her husband." So, this marriage bond lasts for as long as both husband and wife are alive – no more and no less.

It is worth noting at this point that marriage *does* end at death. Jesus said, "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven" (Matthew 22:30). Thus, the marriage bond is broken whenever one spouse dies, permitting the surviving spouse the right to remarry.

Now, consider the result when an individual ignores this bond and decides to marry another. Romans 7:3 makes it clear that if "while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an

adulteress.” She will be guilty of adultery because she is still bound to the husband who is still alive. So, even though she may have obtained a divorce according to man’s marriage laws and remarried, she was still bound to her original husband!

Jesus’ teaching on the duration of marriage also makes it plain to see that it lasts for life. For instance, whenever Jesus was asked about whether it was lawful to divorce, Mark 10:11-12 says, “So He said to them, ‘Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.’” And, He taught in Luke 16:18, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery.”

One exception for divorce

God’s marriage law clearly teaches that marriage is permanent. It lasts for as long as both individuals live on this earth. You should notice that, up to this point, we have not even been given an exception to this rule. However, as we search the Scriptures, it is clear that God gives *one* acceptable cause for divorce.

Matthew 19:1-12 demonstrates the truth about this point. Jesus was asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason” (verse 3)? Now, please recognize that the question is about divorce. And, Jesus will directly answer this question. Certainly, there are many people today who *have* divorced for many different reasons. But, we should only be interested in what God’s marriage law teaches.

To begin answering this question, Jesus went back to the beginning (in Genesis 2). He said, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate” (verses 4-6).

Appreciate the fact that, so far, Jesus has indicated that divorce for just any reason is *not*

permitted. Instead, Jesus has said that marriage is between a man and a woman, they are joined together by God, and made one flesh. Then, I really want you to focus on the statement that “what God has joined together, let not man separate.” No one (not a husband, not a wife, or anyone else) is permitted to separate what God has joined together. So, to divorce for just any cause would be to violate what God has just commanded not to be done! Thus, it would be a sin!

The people, then, asked Jesus, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away” (verse 7)? Jesus answered, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so” (verse 8). So, even though it was permitted for a time, divorce for just any cause was not part of God’s blueprint! And, Jesus is showing us what this blueprint looks like!

Therefore, Jesus has answered the question about divorce for just any cause by teaching it is *not* acceptable to God! Then, He gives *one* exception in verse 9. “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.” The *only* acceptable cause for divorce is whenever fornication is involved. Then, only the one who is innocent of the fornication is permitted to divorce his/her spouse (who is guilty of the fornication) and get remarried (to one who also has the right to marry).

Clearly, God’s marriage law was understood as being very strict because Jesus’ disciples responded by saying that it is better not to marry (verse 10). But, Jesus told them that not everyone would be able to remain unmarried throughout their lives (verses 11-12). Instead, those who would decide to marry would be required to live according to God’s marriage law of only permitting divorce if fornication is involved.

Jesus taught the same thing earlier, in Matthew 5:31-32. “Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and

whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.”

Once again, we can plainly see that Jesus is teaching that divorce for just any cause is not permissible to God. Jesus’ law was different than what had been accepted concerning divorce. If divorce happens for any reason other than fornication, the one who has divorced will even be held responsible for causing the other to commit adultery if this occurs!

But, some will question whether 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 provides another option. It says, “Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife.”

Does this text provide an option to divorce for other causes and then remain unmarried? First, consider that this passage forbids divorce – twice. God’s *commandment* is for the wife not to depart from her husband and the husband is not to divorce his wife. Now, why would God command husbands and wives not to divorce and then permit the thing to happen? I believe the issue about remaining unmarried or being reconciled is merely the options for those who go ahead and divorce contrary to God’s commandment.

The divorce is sinful. But, in a situation that involves two people, reconciliation may not always be possible. God wants the two to be reconciled. And, reconciliation would be necessary for repentance. However, it may be that one of the people involved will not agree to be reconciled. In this case, the one who is seeking reconciliation must remain unmarried until the opportunity to be reconciled comes.

Second, remember that whatever is taught by 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 cannot contradict Jesus’ teachings and what Paul taught in Romans 7:2-3. Therefore, we must conclude that it gives no other permission to divorce than has already been discussed. Man still is not permitted to separate what God has joined together!

Then, a final point to consider about divorce for just any cause is this: Whenever divorce occurs, there is a failure to love *somewhere*. Love is commanded of everyone in the home. And, remember (from lesson 2) that love involves acting in the best interest of the others. But, whenever a spouse divorces the other for a cause other than fornication, such a one is surely not showing love! Furthermore, spouses who divorce for unscriptural causes are not showing love toward their children (who also must deal with the consequences of a divorce in the home). Then, recall that your faith is worthless if you do not show love (go back and read 1 Corinthians 13).

Now, all of this has been very critical to understand because it is inevitable that problems and difficulties will arise in a marriage. But, whenever these problems and difficulties arise in a marriage, it is essential to recognize that divorce is an option that *must not* be on the table! Instead, husbands and wives must be committed to one another and to God and strive diligently to work out their difficulties in a way that pleases God! And, regardless of how bad a marriage is, it is never made better by compounding sin upon sin by divorcing for an unscriptural reason!

Mutual Physical Responsibilities In Marriage

God’s marriage law is very strict and very serious. But, this ought to be expected – because marriage is a very serious relationship. And, part of this relationship involves mutual responsibilities that each spouse has toward the other. Some of these are physical responsibilities and some of these are spiritual responsibilities. For now, let’s focus on the physical responsibilities.

Love

As was outlined in lesson two, love is an essential part of a home that pleases God. And, God has given all members of the family the responsibility to love one another. This includes husbands loving their wives as Christ has loved the

church (Ephesians 5:25) and wives loving their husbands (Titus 2:4).

Then, the nature of this love must be according to God's instructions in 1 Corinthians 13. Without this kind of selfless and sacrificial love, God is not pleased with any marriage. And, those who do not love their spouses in the way that is described in that chapter are in great danger of losing their souls! Therefore, you should consistently review "the love chapter" of the Bible and apply it to your marriage.

Live as one flesh

We have previously seen that the marriage relationship is the closest of all earthly relationships. It is so close that husband and wife are identified as being "one flesh." God's blueprint for marriage includes that "a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). Therefore, Jesus said that they are "no longer two but one flesh" and "what God has joined together, let not man separate" (Matthew 19:6).

So, husband and wife are not to be living separate lives from one another. Instead, they are to be so involved in one another's lives that it is like only having one person. Unfortunately, there are many husbands and wives who have tried to separate themselves from their spouses. Sometimes this happens whenever a husband and wife decide that they will no longer live together and sleep together. Although they are technically still married, they are operating as two.

Sometimes, people will look to 1 Corinthians 7:5 as permission for partners in a troubled marriage to separate for a time. It says, "Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control." Some believe that this passage permits a physical separation (though not a divorce). However, I believe we should examine the matter more closely.

First, understand the context of this passage. This passage is *not* addressing a troubled marriage. Instead, it is addressing the sexual relationship. The entire context (read verses 1-5) deals with the

important element of sexual fulfillment as part of this one-flesh relationship. Paul is teaching that husbands and wives must show the proper affection in sexual ways for their spouses. Therefore, a husband and wife must not deprive the other of this sexual fulfillment. The *only* time this can be done is when there is agreement for a time in order to engage in prayer and fasting.

So, this passage is talking about sexual separation for an agreed upon time in order to be devoted to God in prayer and fasting – not a physical separation because spouses cannot get along and work out their problems! In fact, to separate from one another in that way would be a failure of the one flesh relationship.

God intends for husbands and wives to function as one. They share in everything about life (i.e. successes, failures, concerns, needs, desires, goals, money, etc.). There should be such a close and open relationship between the two that there is nothing that is withheld from the other.

Leave father and mother

Once again, God has said that "a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). We have already focused on the part of this text that says husbands and wives are to be joined to one another as one flesh. Now, let's consider the *leaving* element of this passage.

Let's begin by recognizing that you are "one flesh" with no one else but your spouse. You are not "one flesh" with your children, with your parents, with your siblings, with your brothers and sisters in Christ, with your friends, with your co-workers, or with any others. This is a special relationship that is *only* to be shared with your spouse in a God-approved marriage. In fact, 1 Corinthians 6:16 helps us understand that we must not become one flesh with any other!

Now, let's focus on what this means for the relationships that we have with our parents. Whenever we are married, we leave our parents' homes and form our own homes. Although we still love our parents and have responsibilities toward them (as we'll discuss in another lesson), our

responsibilities toward our spouses take priority. So, we now work as one person with our spouses. And, we must not allow our relationships with our parents to interfere with our relationships with our husbands or wives.

Then, to take this principle to another level, this same thing is true about any lesser relationship. Whenever we become one flesh with our spouses, we must not allow our relationships with *anyone* else to interfere. This includes our children, our friends, our co-workers, etc. Our foremost commitment (as far as any physical relationship is concerned) is to the one person we share this one flesh relationship with!

Faithfulness

God demands faithfulness to our spouses. We must be true to them in every area. Certainly, this is true with regard to the sexual relationship. Again, you are only “one flesh” with your husband or wife and must never try to join yourself together with another. If you do, you commit the sin of adultery, which will result in eternal punishment in Hell (Galatians 5:19-21).

You should remember the passages that we studied concerning God’s marriage law. Only fornication gives God-approved cause to divorce. Therefore, God insists that the only place our sexual desires can be rightly fulfilled is within a God-approved marriage. Hebrews 13:4 says, “Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”

Husbands and wives have the responsibility to be committed to one another in this area. As we have considered in a previous lesson, 1 Corinthians 7:2-5 helps us to recognize this responsibility. Paul teaches that the husband has authority over his wife’s body and the wife has authority over her husband’s body. Neither one has any authority to withhold themselves from the other. And, each one should strive to give the needed affection to one another in this regard. Yes, husbands and wives should desire to fulfill this responsibility to the best of their abilities.

Then, regardless of whether your sexual needs are being met in the marriage, you have the responsibility to be completely faithful to your

spouse. Jesus helps us to think about faithfulness as being more than just abstaining from sexual intercourse with another. In Matthew 5:27-28, He says, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” So, if you even so much as look at another person with lust in your heart, you are not faithful to your spouse! Although lusting for another is *not* a God-approved cause for divorce, it does challenge us to make sure that our faithfulness is not just a physical appearance of faithfulness, but a complete devotion to one another.

Fulfill God-given roles

Beginning with the next lesson, we will focus on the specific roles God has given to husbands and wives. As the Architect of the home, God has assigned roles that will make the home function at its very best. Although we will study the specific roles later, we should recognize a very key point about these roles: They are not dependent upon how well your spouse fulfills his/her role!

That is, God has given *you* certain responsibilities as a husband or wife. And, even if you are married to the most wicked person to ever walk on the face of this earth who never even tries to fulfill the role God has given him/her in the home, you still have the responsibility to do your part. Although it is not always easy to fulfill your God-given role in the home, you must recognize that your service is (ultimately) to the Lord and not to any person.

In the context of slaves fulfilling their roles to their evil masters, Paul said, “Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality” (Colossians 3:22-25). This is an excellent principle that is applicable to this point about fulfilling roles in marriage!

Mutual Spiritual Responsibilities In Marriage

Before closing this lesson, I believe that it is important to consider some quick points regarding our mutual spiritual responsibilities in marriage. After all, if you are a Christian, the one thing you should love the most about your spouse is his/her soul! You should want your spouse to go to Heaven more than you want anything else for him/her. Therefore, there are some things you should be doing to demonstrate such a love for him/her.

Teach

It is the role of the husband/father to be the spiritual leader of the home. For instance, he is instructed to bring up his children in the “training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). Women are instructed not to “teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence” (1 Timothy 2:12). And, whenever Paul commanded that Christian women were not to speak in the assemblies of the church, he said that if they wanted to learn something, “let them ask their own husbands at home” (1 Corinthians 14:35-35). Certainly, a Christian man should want to learn as much as he can about God’s word so that he can teach his wife and his children about the ways of God!

But, the husband and father is not always a Christian. In this situation, a wife can and should have a tremendous influence on her husband to teach him the gospel of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 3:1-2 demonstrates that this is true even when a husband considers the godly example of his wife. Sometimes, he can be won to Jesus Christ “without a word” through the example of his wife. Certainly, Christian women should want to do everything that they can to win their husbands to the Lord and teach them the gospel of Christ!

Encourage

Satan tries to discourage everyone who is a Christian. But, one of the great benefits of being in a marriage in which both husband and wife are committed to serving the Lord is found in that each

one should be working to encourage the other every single day! This is the fulfillment of Hebrews 3:12-13.

“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” So, every single day, husbands and wives can find some way to encourage each other to overcome their temptations, to endure their struggles, to do the good works God desires them to do, and to press toward the goal of everlasting life in Heaven! They can do this by offering the encouragement of God’s word to each other and helping to apply His word to their lives!

Bear burdens

Everyone who is a Christian (as well as those who are not) face burdens in this life. Sometimes they are the burdens of health struggles. Sometimes they are the burdens of dealing with the passing of loved ones. Sometimes they are burdens involving family struggles. Sometimes they are burdens at work. Sometimes they are burdens that are connected with living for the Lord.

Regardless, just as every Christian must bear “one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2), husbands and wives must find ways to do this for one another. They should weep with their spouses who are weeping (and rejoice with their spouses who are rejoicing, Romans 12:15). And, husbands and wives should do whatever they can to serve one another in order to help lift each other’s burdens (see John 13:1-17).

Correct

All Christians will fall short of living by God’s word at some time in their lives. Although many of their brothers and sisters in Christ will not know about these failures and the one who has sinned may not feel comfortable enough with his/her brethren to share the sin with them, a marriage relationship should provide an excellent environment for correcting sin! After all, your Christian spouse should be more interested in your spiritual wellbeing than any other!

For instance, Galatians 6:1 says, “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.” So, you should help your spouse who has sinned come back to the Lord. Perhaps you need to identify the sin that has been committed to him/her. And, there are even times when a husband or wife should carry out the steps of discipline regarding a Christian spouse who will not repent (see Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5, and 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15). But, this is all done in love and with a spirit of gentleness.

Pray

Every Christian should recognize the great power of prayer and utilize it as a tool to petition God on behalf of others. Perhaps for someone who is sick. Perhaps for someone who is struggling spiritually. Perhaps for someone who faces a challenge or obstacle in life. Yet, this is not just true with regard to others, but husbands and wives ought to be praying for one another regularly.

James 5:16 says, “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” Certainly, there are many ways you can and should be praying for your spouse. Pray for him/her frequently and fervently. Then, do not forget to give God thanks for him/her!

Conclusion

Marriage is a wonderful blessing from God. But, it will only seem to be a true blessing *if* we build according to the blueprint that God has given us concerning marriage. Sadly, there are many marriages that have ended in divorce or that are sources of great suffering – because those involved in the marriages did *not* build according to God’s blueprint. So, regardless of your situation, you *must* determine to build according to God’s perfect pattern. Even if your marriage has failed or is very shaky, determine that you will do your part to make the corrections that need to be made, repent of the sin that has been committed, and build according to

God’s solid pattern in your home in the future! Through Christ, you can have a marriage that is pleasing to God and that thrives!

Study Questions

How is Satan trying to destroy marriages?

1. The Permanence Of Marriage

How is marriage a “covenant”?

Explain how God binds two people together. How long does this bond last?

Does God approve of divorce for just any cause?

2. Mutual Physical Responsibilities In Marriage

What is the responsibility for husband and wife to love each other?

What is the responsibility for husband and wife to live as one flesh?

What is the responsibility for husband and wife to leave father and mother?

What is the responsibility for husband and wife to be faithful to one another?

What is the responsibility for husband and wife to fulfill their God-given roles?

3. Mutual Spiritual Responsibilities In Marriage

What is the responsibility for the husband and wife to teach one another?

What is the responsibility for the husband and wife to encourage one another?

What is the responsibility for the husband and wife to bear each other's burdens?

What is the responsibility for the husband and wife to correct one another?

What is the responsibility for the husband and wife to pray for one another?