

God's High Thoughts And Ways For Husbands And Fathers

"Husband"

- Literally, "a man who has a wife," or a man "who is married."
- From Anglo-Saxon *husbondo*, a combination of *hus* (house or home), and *bonda* (band, holder, master). The husband is the band of the home!
- Being a "good husband" does not "*just happen!*"

Requirements for being "A good Husband" – Be a genuine Christian!

- A Christian is a person who is "*of Christ,*" as "*Christ-ian*" indicates.
- One for whom Jesus died, and was baptized in His name, I Corinthians 1:12-13.
- One who is in Christ, Galatians 3:27, and in the body of Christ, I Corinthians 12:13.
- Who lives in such a way that God is glorified in that name, I Peter 4:16.

Proper Planning Before Marriage makes it easier to be a good husband.

- Praying for the right kind of a wife, Genesis 24:12-14.
- Plan to marry a Christian! 2 Corinthians 6:14.
- Plan to marry a Christian who knows the meaning of term "*help meet,*" Genesis 2:18.
 - "*Meet*" means suitable or appropriate, one willing to honor responsibilities.

Proper Planning Before Marriage makes it easier to be a good husband.

- Plan on marrying a Christian who is not addicted to debilitating habits! I Corinthians 9:25-27
- Plan on marrying a Christian who knows the meaning of a vow! Ecclesiastes 5:4.
- Plan on marrying a Christian who is "*free*" to marry, Romans 7:2-3; Matthew 19:9.
 - "Marriage" – legal aspects of the contract.
 - Join, Matthew 19:6. Literally, it means a yoke.
 - "*Bound*" "to bind, put under obligation," Thayer.

Being a "Good Husband" Means Honoring Certain Obligations.

- Love your wife as Christ loved the church, Ephesians 5:25; I Corinthians 13:4-7.
- Dwell with wife "*according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered,*" I Peter 3:7

Dwelling With Wife “According to Knowledge” Involves:

- “Giving honor unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel ...” Proverbs 12:4; 19:14; 31:10.
 - “Vessel” often refers to the body, 2 Corinthians 4:7.
- “Knowledge” means the husband recognizes that women are different.
- “Heirs together of the grace of life” denotes the blessings that accompany a “good marriage.”
- “That your prayers be not hindered” infers that they don’t just dwell together; they pray!

A “Good Husband”

- Assumes the responsibilities that go with headship, Ephesians 5:23.
- Unless physically or mentally unable, provides for his wife, I Timothy 5:8.
- Obeys the “golden rule,” Matthew 7:12.
- Honors the conjugal obligations, I Corinthians 7:2-3.
- Obeys Ephesians 4:31-32.

God’s “High” Thoughts and Ways for Fatherhood

- Involves recognizing that children are gifts from God! Genesis 4:1; Psalms 127:3-4.
- Involves raising his children for God; Psalms 127:4; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Ephesians 6:4
 - Remember this: “No amount of success in life can make up for the failure of the home.”

Some Things a Father Can do for His Children:

- Set a good example as a Christian, Matthew 5:14-16.
- Set a good example as a husband.
 - “The best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother!”
- Set a good example as a worker, 2 Thessalonians 3:10.
- Give them some of your valuable time!

Some Things a Father Can do for His Children:

- Provide for them such discipline as is needed, Ephesians 6:4.
 - “Nurture,” from *paidea*, denotes the training of a child, ... the Christian discipline that regulates character.” (Vine).
 - Involves instruction, Psalms 78:2-8.
 - Corrective discipline, Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15.
- Teach them to work! 2 Thessalonians 3:10; Lamentations 3:27.

Husbandhood and Fatherhood provide for:

- Great joy when they honor their responsibilities.
 - Note some of the happiest scenes of life.
- Great sorrow when they shirk their responsibilities.
 - Conversely, note some of the saddest scenes of life.

Conclusion:

- One of the most beautiful words in any language is the word “home!” “There’s no place like home!” It is even more beautiful when one uses it with reference to that heavenly home.
- Question: Are you prepared to go home to heaven?