

1. Family unity.

Principle –There should be a unity between husband and wife that reflects the unity between Christ and His Father.

Key Scripture:

John 10:30 I and the Father are one (Jesus speaking).

Luke 22:42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

Ephesians 5:25-33 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church--³⁰ for we are members of his body.³¹ "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."³² This is a profound mystery-- but I am talking about Christ and the church.³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Genesis 2:18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Comment

The Scripture paints a clear picture of God the Son operating in unity with God the Father. Christ presented a "united front" in public, keeping his personal issues for private discussion with his Father. This pattern, which is consistent with the concept of power through submission, is to be reflected in Christian marriage.

Application in daily life??

- ♦ Christian marriage is far more than two people just living together. It is the coming together of two people to form one entity, bringing unique personalities to separate roles, yet acting as if they are one.
- ♦ Unity will be evident to those outside the marriage. If there is sufficient communication between husband and wife they can speak with confidence on behalf of the other. Similarly, obedient children will know the family boundaries that relate to them and will not always be testing them.
- ♦ A sign that all is not well in a marriage is when one partner runs the other down in public. Similarly, undermining the other partner in front of the children.
- ♦ Husbands and wives are to be united in their dealings with their children. This engenders a feeling of security that children respond to positively.

Our example?? Do we, if we are married, know our spouse well enough to demonstrate a unity in our marriage that is evident to both those inside and outside our family??