

Loving Our Children Who Are Preparing for Marriage

by Virginia Arnold



How blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways. When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands, you will be happy and it will be well with you. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine, within your house, your children like olive plants around your table.

Behold, for thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD.

Psalms 128:1-4

I. Believing parents should pray that their sons and daughters would fear God and love God above all else. Parents should value that love for God as the most essential foundation for a God honoring life – whether their children are married or single.

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, “Your shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these. Mk. 12:30-31

If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Lk. 14:26

- A. Single adults will find their soul’s satisfaction in Christ alone.
- B. Married adults will find their soul’s satisfaction in Christ alone.
- C. Married adults who have lost their mate through abandonment or death will find their soul’s satisfaction in Christ alone.

II. Believing parents can encourage their God-fearing children to view their courtship and marriage as part of God's divine purposes for bringing HIM glory.

- A. God instituted marriage from the beginning as a **one-flesh union** that would glorify Him.
1. God created the first woman exclusively for the first man. Gen. 2:21-24
 2. God made the wife for the husband – not the husband for the wife. Gen. 2:18; I Cor. 11:8
 3. The wife's role is to complement, support, and submit to her husband. Gen. 2:18; Eph. 5:23-24,
- B. God instituted marriage as a one-flesh union **created by covenant**.
1. *She is your companion and your wife by covenant.* Mal. 2:14.
 2. As a husband loves, provides, and protects his wife and family he portrays God's unfailing faithfulness to His people. Ps. 128:1-4
- C. God established marriage to display the unique relationship of Christ with His bride, the church.
1. Wives have the opportunity to demonstrate the submissive posture of the church to Christ.
 2. Husbands have the opportunity to demonstrate the sacrificial love and sanctifying work of Christ for the church.
- D. God uses marriage to point to His ultimate purpose for His church. Eph. 5:27; Rev. 19: 6-7.
1. The husband can bring his wife to a more sanctified position as he lovingly instructs her in God's Word.
 2. The church is being sanctified and will be presented without spot or blemish at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.



III. Believing parents can prepare their children for marriage by clearly and biblically defining their God-given roles as male and female.

- A. Sons are to be trained as the initiators and spiritual leaders God intended them to be. *A man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife.* Gen. 2:24
 1. Young men should serve all of their sisters in Christ in purity. I Tim. 4:16
 2. Young men should prepare themselves to be biblical husbands if God has called them to marriage and rely on their God-given authorities to attest to their readiness.
 - a. Sons must question their own readiness for marriage and prepare accordingly.
 - b. Sons must avoid the allurements of ungodly women.
 - c. Sons should prayerfully consider young ladies who are biblically prepared for marriage.
 - d. Sons should take the initiative when the courting relationship begins to lead spiritually and make small planning-type decisions (with her father's approval).
- B. Daughters are to be trained to be followers and completers for their husbands as God intended for them to be.
 1. Young ladies should be receptive to the teaching of older women (Tit. 2:4) and serve others with a diligent, but gentle and quiet spirit (I Pet. 3:4, I Tim. 2:11).
 2. Young women should be preparing themselves to be biblical wives if God has called them to marriage. They should rely on their God-given authorities to attest to their readiness.
 - a. Daughters must learn to question their own readiness and preparation for marriage.
 - b. Daughters must avoid the temptation to allure young men by means that God has denounced. (Her spirit and dress will often distinguish her as

either a “sister” (I Tim. 5:1-2) or as a “strange woman” (Prov. 2:16, 5:1-8, 5:20, 6:24, 23:26, 27:12).

- c. Daughters must remain submissive to the protection of their father as they wait for God to bring a God-fearing man into their lives.

IV. Believing parents can assure their God-fearing children that courtship and marriage with God’s glory as its supreme goal brings blessing and joy to both the couple and their families.

- A. Parents of the bride and groom are blessed to see a new family formed that will serve God with their lives.

Ps. 128:1-4

- B. When parents become grandparents they rejoice when they see their grandchildren brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children’s children, to those who keep His covenant, and who remember His precepts to do them. Ps.103:17-18

- C. Serving God as individual, believing families serves as a reminder to each other and to the world that one day we will worship God together as His true bride the church.

And a voice came from the throne, saying “Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.” And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude . . . saying, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. “Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” Rev. 19:5-7

Sources to Recommend:

Boy Meets Girl by Joshua Harris

Girl Talk by Carolyn Mahaney and Nicole Mahaney Whitacre

Her Hand in Marriage by Douglas Wilson

Pre-engagement, Five Questions to Ask Yourself by David Powlison

Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood edited by John Piper and Wayne Grudem

Wellsprings of Life by Donald Orthner

"What is Marriage" message on CD by Pastor Mark Minnick

Scriptures are from the NASB