

God's Law of Order

God's law of order is set forth in I Corinthians 11:1-3. It reads: "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. But I would have you know that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." His ordinance is simple, direct, and very effective. God's law of order is God, Christ, Man, Woman.

The failure of our culture to take note of that law and make it work has resulted in chaos and confusion about marriage and how it works.

First of all, God is over all. It is by His rule and authority that everything exists. It all starts and ends with Him. He "giveth to all life, and breath, and all things," and "in Him we live, and move, and have our very being" (Acts 17:25;28). It is right and proper that God should be first and over all. In Him is not only our life, but the authority by which it is controlled. After all, our Creator ought to know best how He wanted what He created to be and how He wanted it to act.

If marriage doesn't start with God and His laws, it is likely destined for failure.

Christ is the head of man. Jesus is the Son of God (Matthew 16:17). He is the force by which God, the Father, created all things. "The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made" (John 1:2-3). Furthermore, "He is before all things, and by Him all things consist" (Colossians 1:17). Common sense demands that whatever He says should be of not only interest to us, but of vital concern. He is not only the force of creation, He came and lived as a man, thus becoming our great example for how man should live. He "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15) and He "suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow his steps, Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth" (I Peter 2:21-22). "He the great example is, and pattern for me."

Marriage is so close to the heart of God that we are told that "husbands should love their wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for it" (Ephesians 5:25). Marriage and the church are the two great institutions of our God.

Man is next in line. He is said to be "the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church" (Ephesians 5:23). Man is the spiritual head of the wife. While that fact doesn't set well with today's society, that in no way alters the reality and necessity of it. As the spiritual head of the family, the man has certain sober responsibilities, one of which is to bring up his children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). Man's abdication of his role as the spiritual head has been the cause of many marital difficulties, one of which is that the woman, in many instances, is left with duties and responsibilities to which she was not originally suited.

The failure of men to accept the obligations in God's law of order has done much damage to marriage in this age.

The woman is to be the "help-meet" for the man. She never functions at a better level of love and efficiency than when she is being that for which she was designed—helping man to become all that he can. "Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." It has always been God's design: "For in this manner in the old time, the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands" (I Peter 3:5). The failure of wives to respect this fact and "to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands," has brought disaster to many homes in our age. Being a "keeper at home" doesn't argue that a woman can't work outside the home (see Prov. 31: 10f), but if she cannot do so and still be a keeper at home, she would do well to quit her job rather than quitting God's order. Untold amount of damage has been done to homes because of a neglect to follow God's law of order.

And please let it be carefully observed that it no more demeans the value and praiseworthiness of the woman when she is to be in subjection to the husband than it does for Christ who deliberately placed Himself in subjection to God in God's law of order.

The home cannot and will not be all that it should be without proper respect for God's law of order.

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