



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Genesis 1:1-6:8
- Ephesians 5:21
- Philippians 1:1-4

Title:

SUITABLE HELPER

- Marriage: Divinely Ordained
- Men & Women are Different
- Roles and Responsibilities

Most Christians are familiar with the creation account in Genesis. And one of the most notable recitals in that account is God's view on companionship. The idea is so critical that it inspires this revelatory imperative; "It is not good for man to be alone." As such, God causes a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and then extracts from within him, a helper comparable to him. Then God commands they reunite in marriage and to be fruitful and multiply. To the unbeliever this likely sounds very absurd, a bit like bad science fiction, and even a little insane, breaking from all reality.

To God's Children, this should represent the pinnacle of His intent for humanity. And God did not suggest, but commanded them to become one flesh in marriage and to multiply with children. Ah, there it is: the institution of marriage and the traditional family. In today's culture, even the word "marriage" can trigger feelings once relegated to those intended by four letter words. The myriad of couples, who have endured the horrendous experience of divorce, might be the most trigger-worthy.

A [Barna study](#) suggests that for all adults surveyed, the overall percentage of people who had been divorced was 33%. For "born again Christians" it was 32%, and for the atheist/agnostic group it was only 30%. I don't know about you, but I find these comparisons appalling! Evangelicals fair a bit better at 26%.

But, if you want the best chance of staying married, it's not Christ who makes the biggest difference, but money and ethnicity! Simply being rich lowers your risk of divorce to 22%. Yet, you are best off just being Asian, as they come in at only 20%.

For the unbeliever, it is almost a given that marriage should have a disastrous end. Two humans bound together and living under the same roof with no guiding parameters other than a humanistic perspective, self-help books, and advice from peers living in the same black hole—everything but God. On the other hand, the child of God should be poised for success. We have access to the Holy Spirit along with our Manufacturer's User's Manual for life, at our fingertips! So, why are we not experiencing greater results? What seems to be the problem? In today's study of God's inspired Word, we will hone in on both the problem and the solution, and on how to become a Suitable Helper!

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

Then God said, "**Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.** And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply** and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:26-28 ESV

But for Adam there **was not found a helper fit** for him. ...And **the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman** and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Therefore ***a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*** Genesis 2:20, 22-24 ESV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by ***being of the same mind***, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ***Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit***, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look ***not only to his own interests***, but also to the ***interests of others***. Philippians 1:1-4 ESV

MARRIAGE

1. Marriage is Divinely Ordained

A. Not good for man to be alone

(1) A Helper

(a) Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Genesis 2:18 ESV

MEN AND WOMEN ARE DIFFERENT

2. God's intended flow of life: men and women are different.

A. Parents and Child; Child meets Spouse; Child + Spouse = Parents; Parents and Child; Child meets Spouse, etc.

(1) Marriage means it's time to move on...

(a) Therefore a man ***shall leave his father and his mother*** and ***hold fast to his wife***, and they shall ***become one flesh***. Genesis 2:24 ESV

B. Have this mind...

(1) Others First!

(a) So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by ***being of the same mind***, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ***Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit***, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look ***not only to his own interests***, but also to the ***interests of others***. Philippians 1:1-4 ESV

1. ***Submit yourselves one to another***– Wives, ***submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord***. – For the ***husband is the head*** of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should ***submit in everything to their husbands***.

Husbands, ***love your wives***, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word Ephesians 5:22-26
ESV

(2) Things to do!

(a) **Do not use profanity or demeaning language against one another!**

1. But ***if you bite and devour*** one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! Galatians 5:15 NKJV
2. ***A fool's mouth is his destruction***, and his lips are the snare of his soul Proverbs 18:7 NKJV
3. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. Proverbs 18:21 NKJV

4. A soft answer **turns away wrath**, but a harsh word stirs up anger
Proverbs 15:1 NKJV

C. Do not let your eyes wander–

- (1) A covenant with your eyes...
 - (a) ***I have made a covenant with my eyes***; why then should I look upon a young woman? Job 31:1 NKJV
- (2) No provision for the flesh...
 - (a) But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and ***make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lust*** Romans 13:14 NKJV
- (3) Temptation is no excuse...
 - (a) *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man*; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation ***will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*** 1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV
- (4) Sin starts with your eyes...
 - (a) But I say to you whoever ***looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his*** heart. Matthew 5:28 NKJV

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3. Men and Women are different!

A. So are their roles and responsibilities...

- (1) Men
 - (a) ***Men are to be protectors***–

1. Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, **act like men**, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 ESV

(b) ***Men are to be providers***–

1. But if anyone does not **provide for his own**, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever 1 Timothy 5:8 NKJV

(c) ***Men are to be patient***–

1. Therefore **be patient, brethren**, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. James 5:7-8 NKJV

(d) ***Men are to be servant leaders***–

1. Husbands, **love your wives**, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word. Ephesians 5:25-26
ESV

(2) Women

(a) ***Women are to be prepared***–

1. Her lamp does not go out at night. Proverbs 31:18b ESV

(b) ***Women are to be productive***–

1. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Proverbs 31:27 ESV

(c) ***Women are to be clothed in strength and dignity***–

1. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. Proverbs 31:25 ESV