

MAN AND WOMAN: VERSES

Genesis 1:26-31

26 Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth. 27 God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth. 29 God also said: See, I give you every seed-bearing plant on all the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; 30 and to all the wild animals, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the earth, I give all the green plants for food. And so it happened. 31 God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

Genesis 2: 7-25

7 then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. 8 The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and placed there the man whom he had formed. ... 18 The LORD God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him. 19 So the LORD God formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each living creature was then its name. 20 The man gave names to all the tame animals, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be a helper suited to the man. 21 So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 The LORD God then built the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman. When he brought her to the man, 23 the man said:

“This one, at last, is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
This one shall be called ‘woman,’
for out of man this one has been taken.”

24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body. 25 The man and his wife were both naked, yet they felt no shame.

1 Corinthians 7

Advice to the Married

1 Now in regard to the matters about which you wrote: “It is a good thing for a man not to touch a woman,” 2 but because of cases of immorality every man should have his own wife, and every woman her own husband. 3 The husband should fulfill his duty toward his wife, and likewise the wife toward her husband. 4 A wife does not have authority over her own body, but rather her husband, and similarly a husband does not have authority over his own body, but rather his wife. 5 Do not deprive each other, except perhaps by mutual consent for a time, to be free for prayer, but then return to one another, so that Satan may not tempt you through your lack of self-control. 6 This I say by way of concession, however, not as a command. 7 Indeed, I wish everyone to be as I am, but each has a particular gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

8 Now to the unmarried and to widows, I say: it is a good thing for them to remain as they are, as I do,⁹but if they cannot exercise self-control they should marry, for it is better to marry than to be on fire.¹⁰ To the married, however, I give this instruction (not I, but the Lord): A wife should not separate from her husband¹¹—and if she does separate she must either remain single or become reconciled to her husband—and a husband should not divorce his wife.

¹²To the rest I say (not the Lord): if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she is willing to go on living with him, he should not divorce her;¹³and if any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he is willing to go on living with her, she should not divorce her husband.¹⁴For the unbelieving husband is made holy through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy through the brother. Otherwise your children would be unclean, whereas in fact they are holy.

¹⁵If the unbeliever separates, however, let him separate. The brother or sister is not bound in such cases; God has called you to peace.¹⁶For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband; or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

The Life That the Lord Has Assigned.

¹⁷Only, everyone should live as the Lord has assigned, just as God called each one. I give this order in all the churches.¹⁸Was someone called after he had been circumcised? He should not try to undo his circumcision. Was an uncircumcised person called? He should not be circumcised.¹⁹Circumcision means nothing, and uncircumcision means nothing; what matters is keeping God’s commandments. ²⁰Everyone should remain in the state in which he was called.

²¹Were you a slave when you were called? Do not be concerned but, even if you can gain your freedom, make the most of it.²²For the slave called in the Lord is a freed person in the Lord, just as the free person who has been called is a slave of Christ. ²³You have been purchased at a price. Do not become slaves to human beings.²⁴Brothers, everyone should continue before God in the state in which he was called.

Advice to Virgins and Widows.

²⁵Now in regard to virgins, I have no commandment from the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who by the Lord’s mercy is trustworthy.²⁶So this is what I think best because of the present distress: that it is a good thing for a person to remain as he is. ²⁷Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek a separation. Are you free of a wife? Then do not look for a wife.²⁸If you marry, however, you do not sin, nor does an unmarried woman sin if she marries; but such people will experience affliction in their earthly life, and I would like to spare you that.

²⁹ I tell you, brothers, the time is running out. From now on, let those having wives act as not having them, ³⁰those weeping as not weeping, those rejoicing as not rejoicing, those buying as not owning,³¹those using the world as not using it fully. For the world in its present form is passing away. ³²I should like you to be free of anxieties. An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord.³³But a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife,³⁴and he is divided. An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. A married woman, on the other hand, is anxious about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.³⁵I am telling you this for your own benefit, not to impose a restraint upon you, but for the sake of propriety and adherence to the Lord without distraction.

36If anyone thinks he is behaving improperly toward his virgin, and if a critical moment has come and so it has to be, let him do as he wishes. He is committing no sin; let them get married.37The one who stands firm in his resolve, however, who is not under compulsion but has power over his own will, and has made up his mind to keep his virgin, will be doing well.38So then, the one who marries his virgin does well; the one who does not marry her will do better.

39 A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whomever she wishes, provided that it be in the Lord. 40She is more blessed, though, in my opinion, if she remains as she is, and I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

Ephesians 5:21-33

Wives and Husbands.

21 Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. 23For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body. 24As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. 25Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her 26to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, 27that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28So [also] husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, 30because we are members of his body.

31“For this reason a man shall leave [his] father and [his] mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

32This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church. 33In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband.