

**WARM UP** | World Net Daily, March 17, 2009 stated that Webster’s Dictionary now redefines ‘marriage’.

The new definition references marriage as the state of being united to a person of the opposite sex as husband or wife. But the definition does not stop there. It also includes this phrase, “the state of being united to a person of the same sex in a relationship like that of traditional marriage.”

You can see how the enemy is desperately trying to impose the wilfully distorted standards of the world upon the church and the sacred institution of marriage.

Christian marriage always has been and always will be the sacred union between one man and one woman. Only marriage, sealed by a covenant, unites two people to become one flesh. De facto relationships are not blessed of God and can never unite two people to become one flesh.



**READ** | Ephesians 5:25, 28

**BACKGROUND** |

Marriage was God’s idea in the first place. Paul, under the inspiration of God, sets forth the institution of marriage as a sacred earthly picture of Christ and His Church.

The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 5:22-33 details the roles of husband and wife, and projects the thought that the husband is a picture of Christ, loving and nurturing his wife, who is an earthly symbol of the Church - the Bride of Christ.

At Promise Keepers Events, I have often mentioned that your picture affects your performance! If we as husbands could only grasp the enormity of the fact that our every action in the home with our wives is sending a message back to heaven of the way that Christ treats His Bride, the Church! This behaviour, even when done in secret, is either bringing glory or shame to the name of Christ. What

an awesome responsibility!

**QUESTIONS** |

- 1 In Colossians 3:19, 21 there are key words given to every husband. Would you say your behaviour towards your wife resembles the way that Christ treats his Church?

**RIGHT CONSOLE**

- 2 When relating to your wife, according to 1 Peter 3:7, what will result in a husband’s prayer life being hindered? Reflect on three key words in the verse and discuss.

- 3 As a spiritual priest and head of the family, are you exercising spiritual leadership in the home, by reading the Bible and praying with your wife and children?



**MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER** |

What do I need to apply from what I have learned from this study?

**IT’S TIME FOR PRAYER** |

**CONSIDER THIS** |

*In the Old Testament, Abraham was known as the father of the faithful. In Genesis 18:18 God says that all nations will be blessed in him. Then in verse 19, (reading in the KJV) God says, “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.”*  
*What a wonderful testimony from the lips of the Almighty! Now have a deep and meaningful look at your own life and the spiritual state of your wife and family, and ask yourself the question – is God that confident in me, to trust me to do the same as Abraham did in bringing his family up in the fear and love of the Lord? It’s worth thinking about. And remember, it’s never too late to do right!*

**WRAP UP** |

A man’s spirituality is not measured by how much he prays, reads his Bible, speaks in tongues, or prophesies in church; but by how much self is still left in his life. When a man loves himself and his own way and interests more than he loves his wife, it won’t be long before his marriage will slowly surely disintegrate!