



The Role of the Husband & Wife
Divorce – February 19, 2020
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Verses Covered This Week

Romans 12:9 – 11

Ecclesiastes 4:9 – 12

1 Corinthians 7:2

Mark 10:8

1 Timothy 3:12

1 Peter 3:7

Ephesians 5:25 – 26

Colossians 3:19

Ephesians 5:21 – 24

Proverbs 31:10 – 30

Proverbs 17:1

Proverbs 19:13

Proverbs 21:9, 19

Malachi 2:14 – 16

1 Corinthians 7:10 - 16

Hey, ladies. Happy Wednesday night. Sorry I couldn't be with you last week, but I listened in. I heard you got a good lesson on the government. I listened to it. It was very interesting. That was a good one. Well, tonight we get to talk about a lot of subjects kind of all mashed into one. We get to talk about the roles of marriage, the roles in marriage. So husband, wife, and then we're going to cover divorce. And technology is just being technology so it's either smarter than us or I don't know what. So we don't have our TVs but I know we do this with Autumn every week so nobody's panicking. I still wrote them in my best handwriting up here on the board in case you want to, if you get a little behind, or you're just nervous they're not up on the TV screens anymore. We are going to kind of do it old school. So I hope you have your Bible. You're ready to flip. You have your glasses, whatever you might need.

So today we get marriage and divorce. And a lot of times Chris teaches these topics separately. He'll have a whole night on the roles of the wife, roles of the husband, and then a whole day to talk about divorce. God led us to just kind of put these all together this time. So if you get on a topic where you feel like you really need some more and you're hungry, the podcast recordings

on the women's discipleship page are all there for you. You can hear Chris teach it multiple years even, if you're interested a little bit more on one subject. So the truth is, the guidelines are really straight forward for marriage and divorce and the roles of husbands and wives. So why does Chris usually break it down into so many topics? Well it's not the guidelines that are hard to understand. It's just we start getting a lot of questions about applying them. But if you just take it dead straight for what it says right out of the Bible and go forward, you know, we're not going to stray from what God asks for us. Thanks for praying for my father-in-law last week. He had two surgeries on his brain. He's recovering and it's been a pretty miraculous week. So I appreciate your prayer coverage. When I was in the hospital with him, I was reminded of one of his absolute favorite jokes. He loved to tell everybody that he's been married for 54 years and 40 of those were happy. And he's just kidding. My mother-in-law's precious. But the truth is, marriage is hard. And that's kind of what he means when he cuts that joke. But people still ask him, "What's the secret to a long marriage?" He said, "That I just remember when they ask me to have and to hold was part of the wedding vows and I just take my wife's hand and hold it." So whenever they're having a little trouble, that's where they start. Marriage really isn't easy. Our core action in marriage is love. And that comes from Romans 12:9 – 11. I love this whole section. It's a big part of my wedding verse. But if you want to go over to Romans 12:9, some versions of this say, let love be sincere. This one says:

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

I told my husband this week that I was teaching about marriage and he's taught this curriculum before to the men on an early morning session. So I just thought I'd pick his brain like, "OK, why did God create marriage?" And he somewhat jokingly just said, "It's all in the Song of Solomon, baby." Yeah, that's the biblical book on intimacy. He's not wrong there, but there is a little bit more to marriage than that. We're going to start with some verses that biblically back up marriage. These verses show you that marriage is God's plan and it brings God glory. Go with me over to Ecclesiastes 4. We're going to flip down to verse 9 in Ecclesiastes. Just focusing a little bit more on the glory that marriage is bringing to God. So we're at Ecclesiastes 4:9. We've all heard this one before.

⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. ¹⁰If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. ¹¹Although, also, if two lie down together, they're going to keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹²Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves – a cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

So the key here is two are better than one. God's already confining the role in marriage to two people. But then at the end he says, there's three strands in the marriage relationship, that's because He is the third. We're going to head over to Genesis 2:18. We're going to go back to the Garden of Eden, the first marriage. Here God's already declared that Adam should name the animals and during this act it kind of proves that he really needs a helper. So we're in Genesis 2:18.

¹⁸Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I’m going to make a helper that’s fit for him.”

Adam lays down to go to sleep, God takes a rib from Adam’s side. He creates Eve. So you can join me now in Genesis 2:23. So he’s fallen asleep. He’s named animals, fallen asleep, he wakes up, and he meets her. And he’s like, “Wow!” He says:

²³“This is at last bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

Adam’s saying she is from me, she is for me, and in the next line, you know, God promises that His word is true to us for a lifetime. And I just got something out of this for the first time when I read this. In Genesis 2:24 it says:

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and join his wife and they will become one flesh.

And I think you hear this a lot when they’re talking about marriage. They see the man’s breaking away relationally on some levels from his parents and clinging to his new wife. Here, again, God is establishing the number of people in a marriage covenant: it’s two. And now He’s revealing again the sex of those two people. One man. One woman. A man and a wife. We have them under the rule now of God, not under their parents. But this is what struck me as new. The man getting married here is leaving his parents. A man and a wife. So God’s showing us through generations, marriage is meant to stay between a man and a woman. It’s back up in 1 Corinthians 7:2 if you want to flip with me there. 1 Corinthians 7:2.

²But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.

And you don’t have to flip here, but a short one in Mark 10:8. These two people are about ready to become one flesh.

⁸And the two shall become one flesh. So then they are no longer two but one flesh.

Marriage is a relationship between two people sealed by God. Both the husband and the wife have some rules for their role laid out in the Bible. Now this may or may not come as a surprise to you, but Chris wrote this curriculum and he got all these biblical rules for husbands and wives straight out of the Bible. There’s only four rules for men. And as you’ll see, when we get to the women, there’s a few more rules for us. Now I don’t know, maybe their rules are harder, maybe God knows we lack lots of words, so He gave us more, or maybe Chris is just cutting the guys a little slack. I don’t know. You can decide as we go through this. We’re going to start over in 1 Timothy 3:12. So this is where we’re going to start with the men’s guidelines. There are four little Bible verses. Here we’ve got God saying:

¹²Let the deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households as well.

So some of you are homemakers are thinking, “No, I’m in charge of the household.” Right? “I’m the one that’s getting all this straight. If we left it up to him, there would be no laundry done.” But at the end of the day you’re not in charge and your husband has to account before the Lord for the way he ran his household and his family and how he guided his wife. So for the men, we’re going to move on to 1 Peter 3:7. We’ve just established that he is in charge of the household, the children, his wife, and the path that they’re taking. So in 1 Peter 3:7 we have him saying:

⁷Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, by showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of all the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

So he’s in charge of the household, he’s supposed to be understanding. So some days when I’m a little more in the flesh than in the Spirit, the word weaker can kind of irritate me. But here it really means two things: weaker physically and emotionally. We’re created different than men. And the truth is, men are innately stronger than us. I was listening to the radio on one of my car trips back and forth to the hospital in The Woodlands. And there’s this big court case going on right now dealing with high school sports. So a group of girls are suing the district and the state and they’re suing them because they have some boys in the girls’ sports. Because the boys are declaring that they relate more to the feminine sexuality so they get to race as girls because they feel like they’re girls even though God made them as boys. Are you confused yet? So we’ve got boys thinking they’re girls running in the girls’ races. Well guess who’s winning? The boys are and girls are very frustrated. Because this is changing the face of women’s athletics. Because they know deep down what God has just said right here that we just read in Peter. Men are stronger than women. I don’t know where that court case is going to go. It’s going to be interesting to see. But I think it’s interesting that even non-Christians are seeing what God is speaking about. We are created different. There’s a real truth to that.

So let’s get over to Ephesians 5:25. Here we’re going to see that it is the husband’s role to show honor to us even in our differences. So Ephesians 5:25. A lot of these we’ve heard before, but sometimes threaded together it just helps you get a clearer picture of what God’s saying each person should do. So in Ephesians 5, down to 25, we have them speaking very specifically to husbands.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her,
²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

You don’t have to go here, but in Colossians 3:19 we back it up.

¹⁹Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

We’re back to where we started. At the root of marriage. Love. And the way that we love each other can be a reflection to the world; how God loves us. That’s one of the reasons He designed marriage. So now we’re going to take a moment and we’re going to look in the mirror and see what God tells us to do as a wife. We established earlier in Genesis that we were created from man for man. And we’re going to over to Ephesians 5 that describes to us kind of in detail what

this role looks like. So if you want to flip to Ephesians 5, we're down at verse 21. You're probably still there from earlier.

²¹Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Another version of that starts with, be subject to one another in fear of Christ. Honor your husband out of honor for the Lord. And if you don't know the Lord, you may need to work on your relationship honoring Him before you're appropriately able to honor a husband that He's brought alongside you. This is definitely one of the places where trouble starts. And if we can't honor our husband, we may need to go back to our very basic relationship with Jesus. So like Ephesians 5, God's saying, if you focus on Him, the rest of this stuff should flow pretty naturally. Not perfectly. Naturally. Now we're going on to a verse that a lot of you have read. This verse can sometimes make you feel like you aren't ever going to get anything right. Where are we going? Proverbs 31. I know. Let's read it through, OK. But I'm going to give you three highlights from this. Because even Chris boils it down which is one of the ways I appreciated him. He didn't take this and like say, "Are you selling in the marketplace and all those things?" He just really said, "There's three things from Proverbs 31:10." God wrote this for us. We shouldn't be intimidated by it. But sometimes it helps to just break it down and let's see. We're starting down at verse 10. I'm going to read through it and then we're going to talk about the three things that are really important for you to take from Proverbs 31.

¹⁰An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. ¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. ¹²She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. ¹³She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. ¹⁴She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. ¹⁵She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens.

Well, see, right there. I don't have any maidens to have any portions for. That's OK. We can move on in verse 16.

¹⁶She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong. ¹⁸She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. ¹⁹She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. ²⁰She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy. ²¹She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet. ²²She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple. ²³Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land. ²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant. ²⁵Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. ²⁶She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. ²⁷She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ²⁹"Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." ³⁰Charm is deceitful,

and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. ³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

So if we just kind of skipped all the way down to 30, and if you could write on your heart, “If I fear the Lord, I am to be praised.” Just keeping our focus where the Lord wants us will help us in any role that we’re in. But what do we want to take away from this first? You can write this down. These are good. First the Proverbs 31 woman is seeking good for her husband. She is seeking good for him. The second thing that she’s going is ministering outside of the home. And the last thing she’s doing is exhibiting great character because of her trust in God. Really, just focusing on the Lord covers a lot of this. But if you can take these three things: seek good for your husband, minister outside of the home, exhibit good character because of your love for God. You’ve got the Proverbs 31 just kind of in modern day, I think.

That’s a good start to the list of do’s. And of course, Chris created a very long list of don’ts. So we’re going to head over to Psalm 17:1. Again, this is kind of a don’t do list. But even Chris acknowledges that sometimes you might find yourself doing these things. First, we are broken people. But it is by his own admission oftentimes we find ourselves saying these things in Psalm 17:1 because our husband may not be leading the home properly. Now that does not give you an excuse to do these things. You have to change your behavior. But it is true that the root of some of our inclination to misbehave could be because our leader is misleading us. That doesn’t make it right. Proverbs 17:1.

¹Better is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife.

Basically he’s saying, “I’d rather have a dry piece of bread and a quiet house than a big beautiful feast with a bunch of people arguing.” Now we’re just going to flip a page or two and get to Proverbs 19. This is Proverbs 19:13.

¹³A foolish son is ruin to his father, and a wife’s quarreling is a continual dripping of rain.

I don’t think he’s very happy for the rain in this scenario. He’s saying that quarreling is repetitive and unpleasant. A little farther down in 21:9 which is one of my favorites.

⁹It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.

He wants to live on the roof, on the corner of the roof where it’s not even flat. He’s very unhappy. I have another gem for you to look at in verse 19. Proverbs 21:19.

¹⁹It’s better to live in the desert than with a quarrelsome and fretful woman.

The idea here is we’re not supposed to be quarrelsome. We’re not supposed to be fretful. We go back to our big, long Proverbs 31. There is nothing in there that says quarrelsome or fretful. Not even when she’s selling her pieces in the marketplace. She’s not even quarreling for a good price. They’re saying, “When you quarrel, it’s ugly. And it drives people out of the house.” So no quarreling. That’s our don’t list. Or fret. So when either of the man’s role in marriage or the woman’s role in marriage isn’t being walked out in a Godly manner, you get all this. You get

the quarreling, you get the fretfulness, you get the guy saying, “I’m outta here. I’m going to sit on the corner of the roof.” And inevitably, somebody says, “I don’t like living on the corner of the roof anymore. So I think I’m going to divorce you.”

So now we’re going to talk about divorce. So this is very common and God absolutely hates it. I know, I grew up with, I shared with you that I grew up in a Catholic church. So when someone would say, “I’m tired of living on the roof, I want to divorce you.” They just say, “No.” But that’s a tiny overstatement. But not much. I mean, that is the reason that the Protestant churches came to be, right? We had Henry VIII. He founded the Protestant Church of England because he wanted a divorce from Catherine. And the Pope of the Catholic Church would not allow that. So that’s the history of what some of the religions think. But let’s go over to Malachi. I want to pick up in chapter 2. Malachi 2:14. We’re going to get straight into God’s word on divorce. All of these Scriptures are going to back up the main reason that God says that you can divorce which is sexual immorality. Now just because a spouse commits an affair in the marriage, that does not mean that you have to get divorced. God believes in full restoration of relationship with repentance and forgiveness. There’s an opportunity through Jesus for full restoration with repentance and forgiveness. Let’s examine Malachi 2, verse 14. This talks about how God sees marriage and divorce.

¹⁴But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. ¹⁵Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. ¹⁶“For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”

God hates divorce. He literally says here that He considers it a violence. He hates it. Let’s flip over to Matthew 5:31 and 32.

³¹It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’
³²But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

This gets a little bogging here. But basically God’s saying, “If a man divorces his wife and she did not break the marriage vows and then she goes on to remarry, that man has forced her into adultery.” Because back then, I mean, women could barely survive unmarried. They either needed to turn to remarriage or prostitution. But the woman in this case didn’t commit sexual immorality. So the weight of her sin is resting on the husband who divorced her. Now what if the wife leaves her husband who didn’t commit sexual immorality? We’re going to flip to 1 Corinthians 7. This is the case if we have a wife leaving her husband who did not commit sexual immorality. 1 Corinthians 7:10 – 16.

¹⁰To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband ¹¹(but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

So here he's saying, first of course, again, don't get divorced, don't get divorced. Then he's telling her, if you do get divorced, you shouldn't get remarried. Because, again, the whole thing of adultery's coming back in. But this time the weight of it's going to be on her because she left him. Doesn't this start to sound like the Young and the Restless, or something? I mean, oh my word. Let's go a little bit farther down this same one. We're in 1 Corinthians, go down to verse 12.

¹²To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. ¹³If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. ¹⁴For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. ¹⁵But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases, the brother or the sister is not enslaved. 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?

So the core idea behind this is that if you are married to a non-believer and they want to leave, let them go. But you do not have the grounds to leave them because they don't believe. The ground for divorce is still sexual immorality. It's a touchy subject, I know. There are also several verses in Deuteronomy that talk about how in marriage a man's role is to protect his wife. So if the husband is breaking this rule of protecting you, this is something that Chris believes strongly. And if the husband is not protecting you, say there's abuse of some sort in the home, Chris believes that this is grounds for divorce. And we won't go into those Deuteronomy rules, but they talk over and over, even if you get a wife through war because you've stolen the women, you still have to treat them with kindness, respect, and protection. So although it's not stated quite as clearly here, Chris has gleaned from the Scripture that abuse is the second reason that you would be able to divorce under the church. But first and foremost, the biblical idea is to seek restoration. That has to be through repentance and forgiveness. There is also biblical context for a period of separation in a relationship where is you were working towards this goal of restoration the Bible says that it is appropriate for a husband and wife to separate while they are working towards restoration through repentance and forgiveness.

So that is divorce in a nutshell and the role of the husband and the role of the wife. And I know that these bring up a lot of different types of questions. So let's start fleshing out some of the things that we're wondering about.

Questions

Q. Quarrelsomeness is not a reason, correct?

A. It is not a reason. Well, and I think you see that a lot in this world. They're like, "We just don't get along so much anymore. We don't really like each other. We're always

arguing. We're always fighting." It's not a biblical reason for divorce. As a matter of fact, Chris says to people when they come into his office and they're like, "I just don't love her anymore." And he said, "Well what did you do when you fell in love with her." And they were like, "We used to have so much fun. We used to go on dates." He's like, "Good. Do that again. Go back to doing that again. Go back to the very root of all relationships which is love. And it must be sincere. Go back to the beginning. Start loving each other. Start respecting each other. Honoring your husband. Hitting your Proverbs 31 list. Seeking good for your husband and him seeking good for you." That's the number one way to get marriages back on track unless, of course, there are issues that we've talked about. And then there has to be repentance. And you've gone through that: repentance and remorse. So there is a difference. You need someone who's upset not because they've been caught that they were cheating, but they're upset because they've upset the Lord and they want to make things right with their relationship with God. And then in turn making it right with their spouse. So if someone is not sorry that they cheated, there's no way to go through the restoration. Does that make sense? So that marriage in itself, cannot stay together because one party is not asking for restoration. It has to be with repentance before you can have restoration.

A. I think a lot of times when I've sat through this class, people start to wonder what is abuse. What kinds of things qualify as abuse? I've got a friend who's got a husband who, whatever. So we can talk a little bit about that if you want. He was a little gray on it being verbal abuse. Although I think what he feels like it is something that's affecting you physically or affecting your children physically. Those are some of the types of abuses that he feels fall into the realm of being able to ask for a divorce. Although I do think that verbal abuse can add up to physical abuse. If you have walked through a marriage with a woman who's being verbally abused, you can see her vitality decline. So that is something that I'd love to talk more to him about, but have not had the opportunity.

Q. Do you have the verses?

A. I do have those, yes. Thank you for asking. So that is divorce. OK. We've got Deuteronomy 21:10 – 14. And Deuteronomy 24:1 – 4. Those talk about the protection. Right, there is definitely real truth in that. Yeah, definitely the end of that Deuteronomy it's saying, so basically there's been a war between villages. They killed the men, they take the women, and they're saying, "You cannot sell them for money. You shall not treat them like slaves. You have to bring her into your house. You have to provide for her." And I'm paraphrasing as I scroll through this. He is supposed to give her a period of time to mourn and all of these little simple kindnesses. And that was just kind of the beginning of it saying, "If a woman is in your care, you should be protecting her and providing for her." So hopefully those will be helpful to you.

A. I know, isn't she amazing? I really look forward to meeting a Proverbs 31 woman in heaven. I'm just going to be like, "Girl, how did you do that?" She didn't even have an iPhone. It's just incredible.

- Q.** There's one of the commentators, it says, "The Proverbs 31 woman doesn't really exist. She is King Lambeel's mother who wrote to him what he should look for in a wife. And so no one can live up to her because she doesn't exist." And this is a mom, maybe a mom who doesn't want her son to marry so there's no other woman in the family for her to content with and he'll always listen to her.
- A.** That would be very interesting to know wouldn't it? But the truth is, I mean, if we read it for what it is and it tells us, I mean it really is simple. No, we may not go out and weave baskets and sell them in the marketplace, but if we just boil it down to honoring your husband, loving the Lord so much that it shows in your character, and ministering outside of your home. That stuff's all over the Bible. The Lord says, "Take the gospel out to the nations." So that's ministering outside of the home. And if we're supposed to love one another, that would be seeking good for your husband. And if you're exhibiting good character because we trust God, I mean, that's what he's telling us. It's just like love me so much that people can see me in you. So that the fragrance of you is different when you walk in the room. So maybe the Proverbs 31 really isn't so difficult. I mean God tells us to do that throughout the Bible. It's just kind of all in that one little package.
- A.** She's saying a lot of circumstances as a single mom, she's really seeking the Lord and feeling like He is her best husband. And I'll just share back to you as a non-single mom. You need God just as much. You need Him just as much. And nothing that the Lord asks us to do is easy to do without Him. If we didn't need Him, you know, that wouldn't be the point. His point is to deepen our relationship with Him in marriage, in singleness, He wants us to grow to know Him better.
- A.** Right. And that goes back to our lesson last week about the government and respecting people in charge of us, respecting our bosses. If we're practicing these things in all of the places we go, when you get home, you kind of already are in that rhythm of understanding the hierarchy of it. Some of the thing I was interested in was, we talked about in the beginning how the husband is in charge of the home. I think a lot of us think that's like our realm. But the fact that the sins of a mislead home are on your husband's shoulder. It's like he has to carry much more. He's accountable for much more than us in front of the Lord. So he may be able to open the mayonnaise jar here, but when he gets up there, he's got a lot more to talk to God about. He's very accountable for that. And so I think that's why it's so important for us to not be a doormat. I mean, God made you smart. He made you wise. I mean the Proverbs 31 woman is looking at the world in and understanding it. And in some of the ways that her husband is known so well is because of her reputation. Like we are valuable to our men. We are made for our husbands. We are made for that and so it doesn't mean just lay down and let him run amuck. But at the end of the day, the decision needs to be his. And he's the one that's going to stand before the Lord and account for any of those decisions that were not appropriate for the household. And that's not going to be on you. So I thought that was interesting.
- A.** So she's saying, maybe some of those traits in the Proverbs 31 woman are seasons. Certainly I think as you look back, you can see there's different seasons that the Lord's

using you. Different ways that He's leading you. That would make that a little easier to digest, wouldn't it?

Q. Do you have any suggestions for the single women who are looking for a man and help in those matters?

A. Yeah, I think that when you're not married, it's important to see that the church is supposed to come in and come alongside you. As they take care of widows, they are to take care of the women who don't have a husband to lead them. So I think you start here first, plugging in and just having a family here.

Right, I know, it is nice, right. And I don't know. It's fulfilled in a lot of ways at our church. For a while, Chris has the 100 Man Club. And he had a list of people he knew right away he could call and say, "I need \$100." So say someone's air conditioning went out. He was focusing on the widows and women who needed assistance. And then there's the natural way where you call the deacons up and they should be able to respond or point you in the right direction and kind of plug you in with people who replace refrigerators or whatever. I mean I think we can talk to Ed Wren at Climate Doctors here and he's helped lots of people with their air conditioners. And that is the job of the church. And if they aren't serving you well, it's important to approach them about that. Because that is what God asked the church to do.

A. Yeah, I think it is important to try to be known. But I would think also if you happen to never meet a deacon and you call one of ours up and you let them know that you need something, I would hope that he would step in for you as whether he knew you or not. If at all reasonable. Not like, "You know I've got this wedding coming up. I thought maybe I'd like to wear a new dress." Not that kind of thing. But real needs. That's what our church is here for.

Q. When he's talking about the deacons and their role, a big portion of that is their role in the sake of widows. And in the day and age we live in, there is a lot to be considered in the area of widow. It doesn't necessarily mean a husband who has passed away. It can mean a lot of things. And it's very clear on the stipulations of who should be on the list. And so I think when the church is doing and acting in a way that is biblical, then those things are getting covered. I think by and large, I'm sure there's plenty of evidence to the otherwise, but by and large, I think we do well here.

A. And sometimes it's up to the church to spot these people. I know when my husband became a single dad, that someone from our church came alongside him and was like, "Let's start walking through this stuff together." And then when he got really tough questions, they were like, "Let's plug you in with Chris who likes to eat breakfast. So they were up early lots of mornings hashing it out at Denny's until my husband could figure out how to take all that on and walk forward. So sometimes it's up to us too, to be looking for the people who are in need and how to walk them through marriage, divorce, singleness, whatever it is that we've studied and we've studied a lot.