

Scriptures and Doctrine :: A Help-meet question

A Help-meet question - posted by jochbaptist (), on: 2018/11/29 8:17

Hi

I was wondering how some would answer this -

Can a man fulfill his calling without the help of his wife? How bad is it if she refuses?

Blessings.

Re: A Help-meet question - posted by JFW (), on: 2018/11/29 21:35

Brother Kruger,

Would she not be included in her husbands calling?

In other words, a husbands calling is to love his wife... thatâ€™s not to say his calling is limited to this end but would certainly include it:)))

So if a man is loving his wife, sacrificially as Christ loves His church, while fulfilling his calling to share the gospel/love of God to others is he not fulfilling his calling?

If she is unresponsive to Gods calling on her life, then itâ€™s NOT the husbands job to convict her... thatâ€™s exclusively reserved for Holy Spirit. So as he walks in fellowship with God, even if she remains unresponsive, she still benefits from the benevolence shown her:)

Hope that helps

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2018/11/29 21:37

Thumbs up Fletcher.

Re - JFW - posted by jochbaptist (), on: 2018/11/30 9:14

Hi Fletcher

Thank you for your response. Very true, and goes without saying.

By calling, I meant the specific purpose that can only be achieved by a combination of 2 souls and their unique attributes , for the purpose of God's Kingdom.

If Jesus loves the Church sacrificially, that refuse to align herself with His mandate from God, and the Holy Spirit is convicting the Church, why is there so little evidence and fruit?

Blessings.

Re: Re - JFW - posted by JFW (), on: 2018/11/30 10:13

Dear Brother,

There are instances where the fruit takes time to produce... times where weâ€™re in a growth phase and His work is more to refine us or possibly prune us so as to bring forth even more fruit :)))

Point is, that our focus should be on Him- on keeping step with Him and let Him straighten out the bends in others to mold them in the fashion He sees fit.

This was a HARD lesson for me:/ and for many years (with good intentions) I unwittingly put enormous undue strain on my marriage and it took years before I relented, finally receiving conviction that alas it was me that was getting in the way of His work in my wifeðŸ™³

After which He once again gave me His rest and peace as I acquiesced and once again began to trust and obey ;)

Hope that helps and will def lift yâ€™all in prayer ðŸ™•ðŸ™•»

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Re: , on: 2018/11/30 10:54

Brother Kruger, I identify so much with your questions.

Fletcher, thank you so much for sharing your experience!

I can hardly believe the similarity in my own marriage as dear brother Fletcher describes (love you so much bro!). Wow!

In the past couple years (it's taken me 21 years of marriage to get to this point, and I feel like I've only just begun!), mercy is enabling me to shift focus off what I perceived was my (our) calling, and rather learning to to keep Christ himself as my focus. It's changing everything in our marriage!

That said, my perception is that most of the fruit is being hidden, from my earth-bound vantage point. But the eternal heavenly fruit being born is quite abundant.

Sure, I am enjoying palpable fruit of the Spirit here and now (especially in my inner being), in my marriage and parenting

But the "fruit" of ministry (saved souls, healthy local ekklesia on a larger scale..etc.), is largely being hidden.

Yet from His vantage point, I believe all my longings and desires are being realized (fulfilled) according to His building. One living stone at a time. He knows his sheep, and his sheep know him. He WILL receive the full measure of fruit that He deserves!

I'm learning to be satisfied, restful and peaceful in Him, despite what appears (in my physical surroundings, including marriage and parenting) to be raging storms of hopelessness, despair and hell-bound trajectories at times (I'm being extreme, God only knows the full reality).

When I'm in my right mind, even within a seemingly divided household, I experience the fruit of the Spirit in tremendous measure, and that is Christ Jesus.

Again, the aim is not that we fulfill our perspective of a calling, but rather that He IS the fulfillment of ALL!

ADD: our aim as husbands is NOT to focus on how our wives are doing with shortcomings of fulfilling their calling, or how they relate to our calling. Rather, we love them, give up ourselves for them, serve them...etc. Through this means, may Christ dwell in our homes (hearts) by faith, and may fruit come forth, according to His will. Any grief we bear over the sin we see in our wives and/or children, we bear it in the same manner Christ did (does). Laying down our lives. Constant intercession. Holiness. Only doing/saying what Father is, according to the Spirit at work within.

Love and grace truly abounds in mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord!

Re: A Help-meet question, on: 2018/11/30 11:53

1. Can a man fulfill his calling without the help of his wife? Yes, in the same manner that Christ died for us while we were yet sinners.
2. How bad is it if she refuses? Very bad for anyone who is not found in Christ.

Re: Re - JFW, on: 2018/11/30 12:07

Why is there so little evidence and fruit?

There is abundant and never ending fruit in Christ Jesus (hidden like a treasure buried in a field). Discerning fruit has everything to do with our perspective and focus.

You struck a vein with me, dear brother!

Love you so much and definitely feel your pain (as did/does Christ Jesus our Lord).

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May fruit of the Spirit abound in your inner man, and emanate from there as an aroma of Christ within our marriages and beyond!

Love comes to mind...I Cor. 13 love....desperately needed in this hour, in our marriages and parenting.

CHRIST JESUS WITHIN (right Vern?!?)

Re: A Help-meet question - posted by savannah, on: 2018/11/30 13:16

Q. Can a man fulfill his calling without the help of his wife?

A. YES.

Q. How bad is it if she refuses?

A. Very bad for her.

JESUS said,

“And every man who leaves a house or a brother or sister or father or mother or wife or children or towns for my name's sake, each will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.” Matthew 19:29

“Look,” said Peter, “we have left everything we had to follow You.”

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times more in this age—and in the age to come, eternal life.” Luke 18:28-30

Re: Marriage what? - posted by Gloryandgrace (), on: 2018/11/30 15:52

Savannah: Your counsel in a marriage conference would fly like a lead balloon.

Obviously you've not read the scripture...Wife, Children, Job, entertainment and hobbies or you cannot be my disciple...not sure where that verse is at the moment.

Re: , on: 2018/11/30 16:06

Dear brothers Savannah and Marvin (or others), in your personal experience and counsel, can you share practical examples about what it has meant in your own marriages, or real-life counsel you've given to men to “leave” their wife (or young children) specifically?

Re: - posted by Gloryandgrace (), on: 2018/11/30 16:30

Hi Caleb: I do not counsel for divorcing one's wife or hubby simply because that spouse is walking after the flesh. I counsel them that they must follow Christ where he leads them and do what he tells them. I counsel them to follow the admonitions of Peter to win their husbands with godliness and sobriety, a winsome attitude, heart and demeanor. I counsel men/women to be good students of the word, make time for constant prayer, make time to witness their faith, make time to fellowship.

As described in Pilgrims progress, one leaves his wife to follow Christ, not because his wife has become odious and hateful to him, but because following Christ has become the all-consuming imperative in his life. So, the marriage is intact but the division that Jesus brings by way of conversion is not to be looked upon as a reproach upon the new believer, but

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instead a spiritual reality that God has called that spouse to follow Jesus first and lead by example.

Real life example? My own son...I gave this exact counsel to him, he labored for about 5-6 years before she would do much more than begrudgingly attend Church. Now, she is a coach at an all Christian high school.

In the midst of it all, my own son found how important prayer was, how important studying the word and being in fellowship with others...and the prayers of others for him and his wife. He grew exponentially during that time.

As to young children, my son didn't give in to the worldly mindset of his wife, his children (my grandchildren) were to be raised under the knowledge of God, his word, praying and attending Church) So, as leader of his home he taught them at home and took them to be taught. God has blessed all of them in excellent grades, intelligence, favor and most of all a worshipful and devoted mind/heart toward Jesus Christ.

To God's praise I have received this, my son and my beloved daughter-in-law and my grandchildren are in their own household of faith and all attend the household of faith with others.

This counsel I have given to numerous others over the years and God is faithful in every circumstance to bless those who 'leave' their mates behind and follow him. A few cases ended in divorce...and not as I had expected the one I gave counsel to (a wife) turned away from her husband, yet her husband became wonderfully converted while she entered into lesbianism. Obviously there is much much more that can be shared, but my point is, all I sought to do was be faithful to give the message of Jesus no matter how it may have fallen out.

Even in my own life, my wife was like dragging a boat anchor around...but by God's goodness he gave her grace and understanding in Jesus...now I have a mate that is certifiably a better Christian than myself.

God is faithful brother I want you to know that.

Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2018/12/1 8:19

Hi guys,

The discussion is great. I think though, that the original post and follow up question was really a question about Jesus and His bride the church and her implied failure to serve with her husband. I may be wrong about that but that is my reading between the lines.

As to the thread that evolved from this, dealing with families and the call of God is an emotionally charged subject. Questions arise of:

- 1) submission of the wife to her husband which is crucial for the wife and incredibly hard to address in today's western cultures, of
- 2) the husband actually having a walk with Jesus that is so close that the husband can be confident he has heard from God,
- 3) of being careful to hear the admonishment of Paul that husbands need not to be concerned about pleasing their wife but in pleasing the Lord with 100% devotion (1 Cor. 7), and vice versa. The Bible has some very clear intended examples where the husband heard one thing from God and another from the wife and he did what pleased her instead of remaining faithful to God. (Adam, Abraham, Samson). There are other stories of Satan using wives to try to turn the heart of the man of God away from God (Job's wife and David's wife) And there is a huge story of men not answering God's call to go into the promised land because of a misapplied desire to protect their families. Don't get me wrong, I don't think the women were intending to do evil towards their husbands, except Samson's wife.
- 4) of whether both spouses need to hear from the Lord before the call is confirmed (not a Biblically supportable requirement but popular nonetheless)
- 5) of exposing children to dangerous situations and of friendly family fire thinking that one of the spouses is hurting the family with a radical and "risky" response to God.

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I have personally experienced all of these issues in responding to the call of God for me to take my family into a risky ministry. This is not theoretical, but I hope and trust my response is and was Biblical.

Please know that I am not against women. They are my sisters in Christ and I love them with all my heart. However, because the man is chosen by God to be the authority in the home (at least the Bible says that), then the forces of evil will recognize that a strong way to upset the work of God is to get the wife to have the husband please her rather than God. He wants to in the flesh and this can be the beginning of a problem.

This does not in anyway excuse men from loving their wives as their own bodies and even more importantly as spiritual sisters in Christ deserving all honor, esteem and respect.

Yes, we are to love our wives in great and sacrificial ways. Our children as well. Sometimes the best way we can love them is to show them our sacrificial 100% devotion to the Lord and following Him no matter what. Pilgrim's progress being the ultimate example of that as a metaphor. Pilgrim's pursuit of God ultimately became an example for his family to follow even though things were tough in the beginning. Of course, that metaphor was a counsel for us and it actually is based on 1 Corinthians 7 but it was real for the writer of the story. He languished for many years in jail with a wife and many children at home, one a young blind girl because he would stop being a pastor preaching the gospel. All he had to do was cease what God called him to do and he could go home, love his family in a way he wanted to and provide for and protect them. He knew though that it would mean unfaithfulness to God and in the end, his desertion of God's calling would be the most unloving thing he could do to his family.

Re: personal experience and counsel - posted by savannah, on: 2018/12/2 6:34

Caleb,

I'd be happy to answer your question re: "...personal experience and counsel...", if you'd first address Jesus' words which I quoted in my previous post.

What application do they have, if any, to the questions in the OP?

Re: J Kruger - posted by TakeUptheCross, on: 2018/12/2 7:53

Quote:
-----By calling, I meant the specific purpose that can only be achieved by a combination of 2 souls and their unique attributes, for the purpose of God's Kingdom.

I've been asking myself the same question... If I rightly understand you it goes down to this: The purpose of marriage is the glory of God. But does God bind two people together so that they can serve Him better?

Example: God wants Steve to be a minister and preach the gospel to nations that have never heard of it. But God knows the heart of Steve and knows that He could not go alone. He needs a wife that would pray with him, would support him, would perhaps also speak to the women and children in these foreign nations. He needs a 'help meet' in order to fulfill his ministry. Vice versa for the women etc.*

Is that your question? And what happens when a marriage that has begun in a godly church, in a godly manner after 20 years changes and one of the spouses does not want to remain in ministry?

*I know the story is oversimplified but I do not know how to describe it otherwise...

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Re: , on: 2018/12/2 9:33

Brother Savannah! Great question! I am really glad you pointed me back to the words of Christ Jesus Himself!

Again, perspective means EVERYTHING, and the Holy Spirit™s at that!

As I meditated on your second post, and then your first, I saw the words of Christ Jesus, as it relates to the original post, in a new light!

1. I realized that Jesus was not telling his disciples (or us) that everyone (anyone) HAS to leave home, wife, brothers, parents, children. No, no, no...His emphasis is on the encouragement of the reward and great hope for those who do or have â€œLEFTâ€ all behind (like the disciples had)!!! And of course each specific living stone that he calls out of darkness into light will have a unique testimony of all they have â€œleftâ€ behind!!

2. I believe the practical application for us today is â€œno matter how painful it is to leave relationships, hobbies, jobs, material possessions, really anything, for the sake of the Kingdom, IT IS WORTH ITâ€!!!

3. I confess that when I read your first post Savannah, I (surely wrongly?) inferred you were counseling Kruger (or anyone) along the lines of â€œif your wife is not in unity with your obedience to Godâ€™s calling, then leave herâ€....(itâ€™s crazy what my mind can do in the moment when quickly reading a post....yikes, slow down Caleb).

4. I appreciated brother Robertâ€™s perspective on the whole thread pertaining to the church and Christ Jesus! Surely that relationship, and our marriages, should be (are) linked, for better or for worse! Maybe brother Kruger will clarify with more context?

5. I praise God for Marvinâ€™s testimony, especially how his wife is a better Christian than he is now! Hah! She must be an awesome woman of God!! Glory!!

Love all you saints so much!!!

Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2018/12/2 9:44

Jesus didn't ask anyone to leave their family situations without a direct command to do so or absent family persecution that drives us out of our family situations as happened to the early believing Jews and still happens in some cultures today.

The essential answer to the question is a question: "Has God called me/family to go somewhere or to do something."

If so, then we must obey even if the family situation is upset. This was Christ's admonition even to those who would follow Him from the beginning.

I am convinced by Scripture that God will make clear any call on a man's life that would upset an otherwise good gift from God like family. But, and this happens a lot, many people fail to ask God about a call that would put them in difficult situations by falsely falling back on family obligations

Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2018/12/2 13:37

Ok is there any scriptural examples (after the cross/Pentecost) of a man loving his wife as Christ did the church- selflessly, sacrificially, steadfastly- where God called him out of that or where the wife wasn't sanctified/won ?

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Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2018/12/2 15:30

Hi Fletcher. Just curious why you make the limitation to post cross?

To answer your question though, Paul mentions in an epistle that other apostles had believing wives. The apostles or sent ones went on very long dangerous journeys without family many were martyred and killed leaving families without husbands and fathers.

Many evangelist and missionaries have been called by God to go to remote places without their families for years at a time. I presume many faithfully loved their wives. Jim Elliot at the call of God left a young family permanently. God often has called saintly men to dangerous places knowing full well it was a "permanent" call.

Maybe I was missing your point.

Re: Brother Robert - posted by JFW (), on: 2018/12/2 20:13

Quote: "Just curious why you make the limitation to post cross?"

Well isn't that when the new covenant was initiated?
Aren't we invited into this one ...

As an individual who has served the public for almost 3 decades, I've noticed there are both those who "put off" the calling on their life as well as those whom have used "their calling" as an excuse to leave an unpleasant situation at home,... both of which are devastating tho in my experience the latter has far worse consequences for both God/kingdom advancement as well as fatherless/stewardless children.

In my understanding a man is the priest of his home and as such that is his initial mission field or calling.

My point was/is... there doesn't seem to be hard and fast scriptural examples of a godly new covenant man whose family wasn't ultimately won to Christ. So IF a man uses his "calling" as an excuse to "justifiably" leave his wife or kids (because it's unpleasant) without first having won them to Christ the souls won in the field are offset by the ones lost at home-

1 Peter 3 clearly outlines how a believing woman should respond to her unbelieving husband to win him to Christ,... would that not also apply to the man?

Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2018/12/2 20:46

Thanks Fletcher for clarifying. A man who leaves his family because of a bad home life isn't "called". We can all agree to that for sure. I'm speaking more to the general objection that God wouldn't call a man away from his family under any circumstance which Scripture and experience would teach otherwise. I think we agree ?

Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2018/12/2 21:03

Yes of course He can,... but it seems to be more the exception than the rule-

In my understanding, when the Lord calls a spouse or parent out of the home and into the mission field He fills the vacancy with Himself:)))

Re: All - posted by jochbaptist (), on: 2018/12/3 15:35

Flecher said: - //Hope that helps and will def lift y'all in prayer//
Thank you Flecher, & for your testimony!

Caleb said: - //You struck a vein with me, dear brother!//
And you with me, Caleb. Appreciate your love, encouragement & testimony!

Thank you Savannah, I know you are passionate about this particular subject.

Robert said: - //The discussion is great. I think though, that the original post and follow up question was really a question

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n about Jesus and His bride the church and her implied failure to serve with her husband. I may be wrong about that but that is my reading between the lines.//

You are partly right. My expectation and ideal for a blessed marriage is based on how I see the relationship between Jesus and His Church, like you described. However, when we needed help and went for counselling, most counsel usually said - love your wife unconditionally and sacrificially, and she will eventually come around, and be able to submit. But I do not see that with the Lord and His bride. She has to deny herself, take up her cross and follow. She has to sell all she has to buy the Pearl/ treasure ... I had to be willing to love her like the Lord His bride, and was able to commit to it, because of the new heart I received.

Your entire post was very encouraging to me. Thank you.

TakeUptheCross said: - //I've been asking myself the same question... If I rightly understand you it goes down to this: The purpose of marriage is the glory of God. But does God bind two people together so that they can serve Him better?// That is exactly how I see it. We know God gave Adam a Help, that is "meet" for him.

This short word study explains what "meet" means. http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/articles_helpmeet.html

Here is a short quote from it - "Putting all of this together, the phrase (ezer kenegedo) literally means "a helper like his opposite." In my opinion this means that Eve was to be his "other half," like him, but with the opposite attributes."

This is also a very good word study â€” <https://godswordtowomen.org/help.htm>

Your example is great! The Example I would use is - John is a visionary, but easily distracted and unorganized. So he needed Mary on his side, with her natural ability to focus, and take the dream to fruition.

So they both laid their dreams down, to have one new dream to pursue - the Dream God laid on John's heart.

Blessings