



Pastor David Brown and wife, Linda

There is no doubt about it! God has a blueprint for building strong, successful Marriages and Families! He has clearly drawn out that blueprint in the Bible. Discover the truth in this book:

God's Blueprint for Marriage & Family

1. *God's Blueprint For Married Couples:* It is God's design and will that each married couple leave their parents, cleave to each other and become intimately involved (one flesh) with each other.
2. *God's Blueprint For Husbands:* It is God's design and will that each husband love his own wife and lead her.
3. *God's Blueprint For Wives:* It is God's design and will that each wife submit to her own husband and assist, aid and complete him.
4. *God's Blueprint For Communication:* It is God's design and will that family members listen and talk with each other often, within the context of self-control.
5. *God's Blueprint For Commitment:* It is God's design and will that each family member be committed to Christ, spouses be committed to each other, and parents be committed to their children.
6. *God's Blueprint For Parents:* It is God's design and will that each parent rear their children biblically, communicate with them constantly, and love them fervently.
7. *God's Blueprint For Children:* It is God's design and will that children obey and honor their parents when they are young and honor their parents when they are old.



GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR MARRIAGE & FAMILY



Dr. David L. Brown



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Pastor David L. Brown, Ph. D.

**God's
Blueprint
for
Marriage
&
Family**

by

David L. Brown, Ph.D.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to my wife Linda. I am a blessed man to have a wife like her. We were married young. She was 19 and I was 20. We both loved the Lord and wanted to serve him together, and we, as a team, have done that for almost 50 years! However, we both found out very quickly that making a marriage work takes WORK! You do not just say “I Do” and live happily ever after. Marriage requires commitment to the Lord and commitment to each other because there are no perfect husbands and no perfect wives.

I would also like to dedicate this book to Ellen Blount, Linda’s mother. She prepared Linda to be a good wife and mother. I have written this book to share with you some of the things that have helped us to keep our marriage from becoming a cold utilitarian relationship.

David L. Brown



“Let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.” Ephesians 5:33

Included are chapters on...

- God's Blueprint For Husbands**
- God's Blueprint For Wives**
- God's Blueprint For Communication**
- God's Blueprint For Commitment**
- God's Blueprint For Parents**
- God's Blueprint For Children**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEDICATION	3
TABLE OF CONTENTS	5
CHAPTER 1: TEXT: GENESIS 2:18-25	9
✓ LEAVE.....	10
Husbands And Wives Are Directed To Leave Their Fathers and Mothers!	10
What It Does NOT Mean.....	10
What It DOES Mean.....	10
✓ CLEAVE	12
✓ ONE FLESH.....	13
CHAPTER 2: GOD’S BLUEPRINT FOR HUSBANDS.....	15
EXPLANATION & OVERVIEW.....	15
A HUSBAND’S TWO KEY RESPONSIBILITIES TO HIS WIFE: 16	
1) A HUSBAND IS RESPONSIBLE TO LOVE HIS WIFE.....	16
Some Things We Do Know About Christ’s Love For Us	17
✓ Dr. Gill’s Description of “Agapao”.....	20
Tangible Ways You Can Love Your Wife	22
2) A HUSBAND IS RESPONSIBLE TO LEAD HIS WIFE.....	23
THE BIBLICAL DESIGN OF LEADERSHIP	25
The Biblical Concept of Leadership Applied to the Husband	28
God’s Will For Every Husband Is That He Be A Servant-Leader Not A Cruel Dictator.	29
Christ’s Example of Leadership	29
Specific Ways Jesus Christ Led His Disciples	29
God’s Will For Every Husband Is That He Lead His Wife! Are You Being A Loving Leader?	33
CHAPTER 3: GOD’S BLUEPRINT FOR WIVES.....	35
A Wife’s Two Key Responsibilities To Her Husband.....	37

GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR MARRIAGE & FAMILY

1) A Wife Is Responsible To Submit To Her Husband.....	37
2) A Wife Is Responsible To Help, Assist, Aid And Complete Her Husband	47
CHAPTER 4: GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR COMMUNICATION	53
Outline	53
The Definition of Communication.....	53
Three Main Types of Communication	54
Three Elements of Effective Verbal Communication	55
The Foundation of Communication	55
Three Keys for Good Listening	57
Four Keys For Good Speaking	59
Pitfalls A Good Communicator Avoids.....	60
CHAPTER 5: GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR COMMITMENT	63
STEPS NECESSARY TO PRESERVE THE FAMILY	64
COMMITMENT DEFINED.....	65
Examine Your Commitments!.....	67
CHAPTER 6: GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR PARENTS.....	69
The Biblical View of A Child's Nature	70
God's Will For Parents	71
God's Will For Parents Is To Rear Their Children Biblically!	73
Three Tips That Will Help You Rear Your Children Biblically.....	74
Summary.....	78
CHAPTER 7: GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR CHILDREN	79
CHAPTER 8: KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING!	85
Counsel for Maintaining a Strong, Vibrant Marriage	85
7 Suggestions for Maintaining a Strong, Vibrant Marriage	86
COMPANIONSHIP.....	87
COMMITMENT.....	89
COMMUNICATION.....	91
(Charitable Communication)	91
COMMUNICATION POINTERS.....	92

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPRECIATION	93
WANTED: MOTHER.....	93
RESPONSIBILITY AND FORGIVENESS.....	94
ROMANCE	95
ACTIVE SPIRITUAL INVOLVEMENT	96
REVIEW	99
WHERE WILL YOU SPEND ETERNITY?	101
ABOUT THE AUTHOR.....	105

Keep The Home Fires Burning

CHAPTER 1

TEXT: GENESIS 2:18-25

There is one key statement about marriage that occurs four times in the Bible. To my knowledge, this is the only statement about marriage that God includes four times in the Bible. Let's take a look at this statement –

- **Genesis 2:24** *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*
- **Matthew 19:5** *And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?*
- **Mark 10:7-8** *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; 8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.*
- **Ephesians 5:31** *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.*

The outline for this chapter is going to focus on the three recurring statements in these verses... *leave, cleave, and one flesh*. Since God so often repeated these things, once before man fell into sin and three times after he fell into sin, I believe God's blueprint for marriage can be found within these verses.

Outline – God's Blueprint For Marriage

Leave -- Husbands & Wives Are Directed **To Leave** Their Fathers and Mothers!

Cleave – Husbands & Wives Are Directed **To Cleave** To One Another

One Flesh – Husbands & Wives Are Directed To An Exclusive One Flesh Relationship

✓ LEAVE

HUSBANDS AND WIVES ARE DIRECTED TO LEAVE THEIR FATHERS AND MOTHERS!

What It Does NOT Mean

1. **It does not mean you ignore, abandon or forsake your parents** – Mark 7:9-13 makes that clear that God does not approve of this!
2. 1Timothy 5:4,8 indicates a special responsibility for children and close relatives to care for the widows in the family.
3. **It does not mean that you must make a move away from the vicinity in which your parents live** – “Living too close to parents at the beginning of a marriage may make it more difficult to leave, but it is possible to leave your father and mother and still live next door. Conversely, it is possible to live a thousand miles away from your parents and not leave them. In fact, you may not have left your parents even though they are dead.” (*Strengthening Your Marriage* by Wayne Mack, page 1)

What It DOES Mean

Once you are married there is to be a fundamental change in your relationship with your parents. Leaving your parents means...

1. **The husband-wife relationship is now the priority relationship** – Your relationship with your parents must now take a back seat to your relationship with your spouse. In fact, all other relationships must now be secondary.

2. **It means that you are more concerned about your spouse's ideas, opinions, and directives than you are of your parents** – Some times there is a power struggle between the two sets of parents. A husband and wife must be careful that they do not allow the parents to manipulate them.
3. **It means you must not try to change your mate simply because your parents do not like something about him or her.**
4. **It means that you are not primarily dependent on your parents for finances, affection, approval, council, etc.**

Pointers For Parents

Parents, your goal should be to prepare your children to leave, not to stay. As they advance toward maturity you should train them to be independent of you, not dependent on you. Teach them to be decision makers and to manage their money carefully.

Husbands and wives make your mate your best friend, not your children. Don't become too emotionally dependent on your children. As your kids get older be sure to cultivate common interests with your mate. Learn to do things together and deepen your friendship together. Parents who make their children "their life" are in for difficult times when they leave the nest. I'm not saying to ignore your children, but I am saying they should be second and your spouse should be first.

When your children have married, don't try to run their lives! Don't criticize their spouse. You must allow the husband to be the head of his home, to make decisions for himself, to look to his wife, not you, as his helper and his responsibility. You must encourage your daughter to look to her husband for companionship, encouragement, affection, guidance, etc.

✓ CLEAVE

Husbands And Wives Are Directed To Cleave To One Another! The Hebrew word translated *cleave* in **Genesis 2:24** is *dabaq* (daw-bak'; 1692), which means to adhere, stick or be joined together. The Greek word translated *cleave* or *join to* in the New Testament passages is *proskollao*, (pros-kol-lah'-o; 4347), which means to glue to. Marriage glues two people together!

Look at **Mark 10:7-9** *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; 8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. 9 What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.* God planned marriage to be permanent. It is a vow until death do we part! Dr. Wayne Mack says this of marriage – “Marriage means that a husband and wife enter into a relationship for which they accept full responsibility and in which they commit themselves to each other regardless of what problems arise.” Marriage is an irrevocable covenant or contract to which we are bound. God is clear about that. **Malachi 2:14** says; *Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.* (See also **Romans 7:2-3; Matthew 19:8-10**)

God's kind of marriage involves a total and irrevocable commitment of two people to each other in good times and in bad times, agreements and disagreements, in joy or in sorrow, in sickness or in health.

God's kind of marriage means that people know that they must face problems, discuss them, seek God's help in them, resolve them rather than run from them, because there is no

way out. They are committed to one another for life. They must cleave to one another today and tomorrow, as long as they both shall live. So, work at keeping your marriage strong!

✓ONE FLESH

Husbands And Wives Are Directed To An Exclusive One-Flesh Relationship. Becoming one flesh involves the act of marriage but is more than just that physical act. Within the bounds of marriage and only within that boundary the sexual relationship is holy, beautiful and good (see **Hebrews 13:4; Proverbs 5:18-19**). A husband and wife are a team. Each is to be as concerned about the other's needs as he/she is about their own (**Ephesians 5:28; Proverbs 31:12 & 27**).

God's Blueprint for Marriage – Leave, Cleave And Be One Flesh! [Adapted From *Strengthening Your Marriage* by Wayne Mack]

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CHAPTER 2

GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR HUSBANDS

EXPLANATION & OVERVIEW

The goal of marriage, according to the Bible is completeness, oneness and unity. **Genesis 2:24** says, *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.* (See also Matthew 19:5; Mark 10:6-9; Ephesians 5:31). In order to achieve this oneness or unity in a marriage the husband must know and fulfill his biblical role and the wife must know and fulfill her biblical role. The problem is that there is mass confusion and chaos today concerning what the role of the husband is and what the role of the wife is in the marital relationship.

Can you imagine the utter confusion that would exist on a football team if the players did not know what their specific responsibilities were? Or, picture the chaos and frustration in a business where there are no job descriptions, where everything is everybody's business and nothing is anybody's business, where everyone is a "chief" and no one is an "Indian". This is the kind of confusion, chaos and frustration that exists in many marriages today because there has never been a sorting out of the responsibilities. The Bible defines the wife's God-given responsibilities to her husband as well as the husband's God-given responsibilities to his wife. In this section we are going to focus on a husband's responsibility to his wife.

**A HUSBAND'S TWO KEY
RESPONSIBILITIES TO HIS WIFE:**

- 1) **He is to love her**
- 2) **He is to lead her**

Let's look at the **first** point...

**1) A HUSBAND IS RESPONSIBLE TO LOVE
HIS WIFE**

The wife has such a great need for love or the husband has such a great lack of love, that God commands the husband to love his wife three times within the space of a few verses in **Ephesians 5**. Twice husbands are instructed to love their wives as themselves and once as Christ loved the church.

Ephesians 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

Ephesians 5:28 *So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.*

Ephesians 5:33 *Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.*

We men usually spend a great deal of time, money and effort on ourselves. Our own desires and comforts are very important to us. When we are hungry, we eat. When we are thirsty, we drink. When we are tired, we sleep. When we want our "toys" we buy them. When we want entertainment we turn

on the TV or DVD's. Very naturally and carefully and fervently we nourish and cherish ourselves.

TIME OUT!!! Men, the Scripture indicates, the true way a man is to love his wife. He is to nourish her, cherish her, protect her, satisfy her, provide for her, care for her, sacrifice for her to the same degree and extent, and in the same manner as he does himself. Scripture also says, *So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: Ephesians 5:28-29 "Husbands, love your wives just as Christ also loved the church." Ephesians 5:25*

How did Christ love the church? To be sure we cannot fully understand the love that Christ has for the church. Scripture speaks of the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge (**Ephesians. 3:17-19**).

Some Things We Do Know About Christ's Love For Us

1. **He loved us despite our sin (unconditionally) – Romans 5:8**
2. **He chose to love us (volitionally) – 1 John 4:10; Ephesians 1:4**
3. **His love is an intense love – John 13:1; Ephesians 5:2, 25**
4. **His love is an unending love – Jeremiah 31:3; Romans 8:38-39**
5. **His love is an unselfish love – Philippians 2:6-7**
6. **His love is a purposeful love – Ephesians 5:26-27; He works for our improvement, our development, our happiness, our welfare.**

7. **His love is a sacrificial love** – He loved us and gave himself for us. He died, the just for the unjust, to bring us to God. In love, He endured the horrible death of the cross with all of its physical and spiritual torture and agony. In love, He bore the guilt and penalty of sin and the wrath of God in the place of His people. In love, He personally bore our sins in His own body on the cross so that the penalty and power and devastating effects of sin in our lives might be broken (**Ephesians 5:2, 25; Galatians 2:20; I Peter 3:18; Romans 5:6-11; I Peter 2:24**).
8. **His love is an obvious (manifested) love** – Christ manifests (shows) His love in words and deeds. He tells us He loves us. He shows us He loves us. He protects us, prays for us, guards us, strengthens us, helps us, defends us, teaches us, comforts us, chastens us, equips us, empathizes with us, and provides for all our needs (**John 10:1-14; 14:1-3; 13:34, 35; 15:9-10; Romans 8:32; Philippians 4:13, 19; Hebrews 4:14-16**).

Since we are to love our wives like Christ loves the Church, (that is, as individual Christians) this then is the standard by which a husband is to judge his love for his wife!

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 is another very helpful passage. It goes to great lengths to describe **biblical actions of love...**

- **Suffereth long** – The Greek word is μακροθυμει (makrothumeo, mak-roth-oo-meh'-o; Strong's # 3114). It means to be long-spirited, patient, particularly with people as opposed to circumstances.
- **Kind** – The Greek word is χρηστευεμαι (chresteuomai, khraste-yoo'-om-ahee; 5541). It means to be kind, obliging, act benevolently, to be kind.
- **Envieth not** – The Greek word is ζηλοι (zeloo, dzay-lo'-o; 2206) which means to have warmth of feeling for or against