

# FOUNTAIN OF LIFE

ANCIENT ANSWERS TO MODERN QUESTIONS

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## AS CHRIST LOVES THE CHURCH

By Maynard L. Kappel, Tulsa, Oklahoma

**M**arriage can be one of the most rewarding and fulfilling of relationships for a man and woman, but at the same time, one of the most difficult. Quoting an article in the book "The Index of Leading Cultural Indicators" by William J. Bennett:

*"The United States has the **highest divorce rate in the world**. At present rates, approximately **half of all U.S. marriages** can be expected to end in divorce" (National Commission on Children, "Just the Facts: A Summary of Recent Information on America's Children and Their Families" (Washington D.C., 1993).*

Funny, isn't it? We have instruction books telling us how to operate our computers, our automobiles and any other device we could mention. But what about marriage? Is there an "instruction book" available that would help lay the ground work for a successful and rewarding marriage? There is and it's something you probably have in your home already. What it is? Well, don't be shocked, but it's the Bible.

The Bible contains guidelines, that if followed, would go a long way towards insuring that your marriage can be all that it should be. God designed and instituted the marriage relationship and who better to know how to "run it"? (Genesis 2:23-24 - All references KJV)

Because God has placed the man in

the responsible position as head in the marriage relationship (Ephesians 5:23), we will, in this article, focus our attention on the role of the husband.

When a man says "I do" at the wedding ceremony, that may be one of the last definite "**I do's**" that he may say. "**I don't know**" is too often the answer to the challenges he will face in the marriage relationship. Many husbands (are **you** one of them?) approach marriage without truly realizing that the Bible is indeed an **instruction book for him**, containing vital instructions that can be used as guidelines in facing the challenges and opportunities of the marriage relationship.

God, through the Apostle Paul has much to say on the marriage relationship. "Husbands, love your wives, even **as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it** (Ephesians 5:25).

### How to Love Your Wife

The role of husband comes with serious **responsibilities**. First and foremost is that we are to love our wives even "as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it." In what ways did Christ show His love for His church?

### Set the Right Example

Christ gave a good example. Husbands

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must **lead by example**. Setting the right example means taking the lead and "showing how it's done," if you will. Christ came to set the right example by living a perfect, sinless life. What is sin? (1John 3:4 - Referring to the 10 Commandments)

This is one very important way to show your wife that you do indeed love her. If you love someone, you want the very best for them, don't you? What is better than a Godly example?

### Gives of His Time to Listen

Time is a resource we only have so much of. We cram as much as possible into each precious hour just to keep our lives on schedule. Yes, we do have many demands on our time and attention, but Christ again sets the right example for the husband. He loves His church and takes the time to **listen** to it. He is **genuinely interested** in what is happening in our lives and in our needs. He can sympathize with our

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problems and is ready to help us with them. But how can He know what to help us with if He never listens? But He does listen. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

He expects the husband to listen to his wife. This doesn't mean just "nodding in all the right places" and hoping she doesn't ask us a question requiring an intelligent response. It means to be intently

interested in what she thinks and in what her day was like. Make it a point to ask her when you come in from work and then listen! It means to encourage her to know that however busy we are, **she has first priority**. Not only does this affect the wife, but also the children.

*"The condition of children's lives and their future prospects largely reflect the well-being of their families. When **families are strong, stable and loving**, children have a sound basis for **becoming caring and competent adults**. When families are unable to give children the **affection and attention** they need and to provide for their material needs, children are far less likely to achieve their full potential" (National Commission on Children, 1991).*

### Regards His Church as Very Special

*"That He might **sanctify and cleanse** it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, **not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing**; but that it should be **holy and without blemish**" (Ephesians 5:26-27).*

Sanctify means to "set apart." Christ regards His church as something very **special and valuable**. He wants His church to be "holy and without blemish" or clean.

Husbands, your wife is someone very special in the eyes of God and should also be to you (if not, why did you marry her?) So special that God expects us to provide a "clean" and **Godly environment** for her in which to

live. What do I mean by this? Well, what is it like at home? Are there filthy, crude programs playing on your television or radio? (Seemingly, that's all there is anymore) What about the friends you associate with and invite over? Are

"It is the responsibility of the husband to provide a morally clean, uplifting and Godly environment for his wife and family."

they a **good influence**? What about the places you go?

The best environment we can provide is one that will develop **Godly character** that is "holy and without blemish" in ourselves and in our families. It is the responsibility of the husband (as head of the family) to provide a morally clean, uplifting and Godly environment for his wife and family.

### Loves and Nourishes

*"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but **nourisheth and cherisheth** it, even as the Lord the church" (Ephesians 5:28).*

Husbands, how do we treat ourselves? Why, we try to take care of ourselves, don't we? God says there has never been a man who ever hated his own body, but takes care of it and cherishes it. So it should also be the way you treat your wife. The Greek word translated "nourish" means to "rear up to maturity, to bring up, care for, or protect."

What talents or abilities does

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# The Fountain Of Life

By Lawrence Gregory, Tulsa, Oklahoma

**M**uch of mankind is spending a great deal of time and money searching for ways to recapture their youth. They are looking for an elixir of some kind to give them long life, vigor, health and an easy way to the world's knowledge, understanding and wisdom.

But just as Ponce De Leon, whose long search in the 16<sup>th</sup> century for the fabled "Fountain of Youth" led him to the discovery of Florida, people are disappointed that they are not able to find that fountain which is so longed for. And so many are today living below their best possibilities, settling for less with disappointment because they have not found the source of all good, the true **Fountain of Life**.

The Holy Bible reveals what that **Fountain of Life** is and what benefits it has for us. We need to examine several scriptures to better understand this important phrase, and title of this magazine.

*"For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light."* Psalms 36:9 (KJV)

Biblical references tell us that the word **fountain** in Hebrew is the same as a well or spring of water. So we see first that, **God** is that **Fountain of Life**.

The psalmist also tells us elsewhere that *"in Him are all our springs."* He is the source of all the benefits we attribute to the water flowing from that Fountain.

*"The mouth of the righteous is a*

*well (fountain, RSV) of life."* Proverbs 10:11 (KJV)

*"The law (teaching, RSV) of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death."* Proverbs 13:14 (KJV)

*"The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death."* Proverbs 14:27 (KJV)

We can see from these last

*"Jesus answered and said unto her, whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." John 4:13-14*

three scriptures that the good words, the conversation, and the teaching of the Law of God by a Christian is a source of life to others. And his own respectful awe of God and His ways are the source of life and good and are an antidote to death. While the words of a bad person produce only death.

Let's also notice these two similar scriptures in Jeremiah 2:13 *"For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."* And Jeremiah 17:13 *"O Lord, the hope of Is-*

*rael, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters."*

Mankind, with his false, humanistic and idolatrous ways, has neglected the pure ways of God. He ends up empty, thirsty, ashamed and lifeless. We know water is one of the very necessary elements of life. Without it we will die. The water from the **Fountain Of Life** is that vital living force we need to live spiritually as well as physically.

Jesus said some very interesting words to the Samaritan woman who had come to fetch water at Jacob's well.

*"Jesus answered and said unto her, whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." John 4:13-14*

Jesus used the Greek word "Pege" for well, which translates in English as a gushing fountain, a source or supply. It is also interesting to note that this word does not necessarily mean the original source or well. It can be taken as other springs or fountains supplied by the original. He also used the Greek word "Hallomai" for springing, which means to jump, gush, or leap. It is translated literally as the

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# Of Making Many Books There is No End

By Ron Willhoite, Tulsa, Oklahoma

*In a world of religious confusion, just who are we supposed to believe? With so many would-be "religious leaders" trying to tell us what to think and what to believe about God, sometimes we forget to ask God what He says about the matter.*

Since the Bible was not written in English, many students leave themselves at the mercy of the various translations and transliterations. The Apostle Paul conveyed to us when writing to Timothy, that study is a requirement. WE are to STUDY to show OURSELVES approved. Let's read II Timothy 2:15 from the *Amplified Bible*:

*"Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth."*

But with the hundreds, if not thousands, of books including commentaries, companions, handbooks, topic books, etc., where does one begin and what does one study to further their knowledge of God's truth?

Unlike various theological seminaries, which depend largely on 2nd & 3rd party books and apologetics composed of "someone else's commentary, concerning someone's comments, concerning a particular doctrinal persuasion, from yet another point of view," Paul admonished Timothy to show himself approved!

One very "attractive" tool for the would-be Bible student is the so-called "Study Bible." On the surface these are very impressive, with beautifully rendered charts

and graphs, complete with extensive notation. BUT, BE CAREFUL when gleaning from a particular interpretation and corresponding note. II Peter 1:20 clearly points out that the Word of God is *not* open for "private interpretation." For instance, Colossians 2:16-17 from the *NIV (New International Version) Study Bible*:

16. "Therefore do not let any-

When comparing various translations it is staggering to find how many contain textual contradictions and manipulations which have manifested into complete religious and doctrinal standpoints.

*one judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day."*

17. "These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however is found in Christ." (emphasis mine throughout)

Compare with the same verses from the *King James Version*:

16. "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath

days:"

17. "Which *are* a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ."

The corresponding "study note" for the above scripture from the *NIV Study Bible* adds, "...any insistence on the observance of such ceremonies is a failure to recognize that their fulfillment has *already taken place.*"

From the above example we see how an entire doctrinal standpoint rests on one word in the "past tense." (*Or do you think that the mainstream doctrinal standpoint on the subject could have massaged the translation?*) It is worthy of some thought.

When comparing various translations, it is staggering to find how many contain textual contradictions and manipulations which have been manifested into complete religious and doctrinal standpoints. Below is John 3:13 from the *King James Version*:

"And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven."

Here is the same verse from the *Living Bible*:

"For only I, the Man of Heaven, have come to earth and will return to heaven again."

Here we have a flagrant exam-

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ple of "taking away!" (Deuteronomy 12:32, Revelation 22:19)

Alongside the various "translations," one must exercise extreme caution when encountering doctrinal view points from the various Bible helps. The majority mirror the fundamental mainstream point of view.

Almost all of the commentaries and handbooks cite **Acts 20:7** as scriptural evidence and therefore concrete proof of the *New Testament* change in the Fourth Commandment. From the *King James Version*:

*"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came to-*

Since the Bible was not written in English, many students leave themselves at the mercy of the various translations and transliterations.

*gether to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.*

Consult a *Greek Interlinear* for the true translation of the inspired Greek:

*"And on ONE of the SABBATHS having been assembled to break bread, Paul was lecturing them. He was about to depart on the next day, and continued his message until midnight."*

The disciples were gathered together for dinner and a message from Paul "upon **one** of the Sab-

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leaping of the healed cripple in Acts 3:8.

So Jesus was telling us that the water He gives would be a source of good gushing forth in a healing manner. The original source of that good and healing is God. We can, however, be secondary sources passing on to others the spiritual and physical salve that is needed to heal the wounds of many in this world. This is a wonderful thing that God is doing.

Here are three final scriptures for us to consider.

*"Understanding is a wellspring (fountain, RSV) of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly." Proverbs 16:22 (KJV)*

*"The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring (fountain, RSV) of wisdom as a flowing brook." Proverbs 18:4*

A person's understanding of God's way is a blessing to himself as he directs his own way of life according to God's will. And he is able to share with others the true and deep treasures of life. **The Eternal God, is the Fountain of Life** to all. We too can be a fountain of life to others as we share with them knowledge, wisdom, understanding and fear of God's way. If you do not have those living waters flowing through you, then go directly and quickly to Him who is the **Fountain of Life**.

If you are a participant of those benefits, then why not look for ways to share by what means you can, what you have, wher-

ever you happen to be.

Think about Jesus' promise to all believers in Revelation 21:6 "*I am alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*" 

**Material Referenced in this Article:** Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #4077, and Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words page 653.

## FOUNTAIN OF LIFE

*"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give."* Matt 10:8 (KJV)

These are the words that Jesus spoke unto His disciples as He sent them out into the towns and villages of Judea, spreading the gospel. Likewise we would encourage you to pass on this magazine or any of its articles to all who would benefit from the messages found in this issue or future issues.

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*baths.*” This phrase is a direct reference to the Biblical Holy Day, **The Feast of Weeks** or **Pentecost** (Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:10,16; II Chronicles 8:13; Acts of the Apostles 2:1; Acts of the Apostles 20:16; I Corinthians 16:8).

Pentecost from the Greek means *“fiftieth”* and from the Greek text we see clearly that the disciples were gathered on day **one** of the **fifty days** culminating in Pentecost (study the above scrip-

tures for more on God’s command in counting to Pentecost). It is amazing how the mention of this event which took place on the *“first of the Sabbaths”*, or day **one** in the count leading to **God’s Feast of Pentecost**, has been translated *“first day of the week”* in the clever attempt to provide scriptural validation for the change from Sabbath to Sunday.

The Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God, NOT the Word of God brought to you by these various translators. It is *our*

responsibility to *“rightly divide, line upon line, here a little and there a little.”*

King Solomon spoke “words of wisdom” when he stated in Ecclesiastes, “Of making many books there is no end.”

But there is only **one** truth.

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your wife have? Encourage her to use them rather than ridiculing or even ignoring those **God-given** abilities. As Christ cares for and “rears up to maturity” His church, we are to help and promote our wives and families in developing their talents. We can do this by fostering an environment where there is no fear of being made fun of for trying something new. You appreciate it when your wife encourages you when your confidence may be wavering and the “Yeah But’s” take over in the face of trials. When your wife knows you will **support and encourage her**, you will be fulfilling your responsibility and imitating Jesus Christ as He encourages and brings to maturity His church.

The Greek word translated “cherish” means “to foster, to brood (warm to one’s bosom). A brooding hen incubates, tenderly takes care of what is in her charge. Similarly, a husband is to foster, tenderly take care of, the wife that is in his care which is a gift from God (Gen. 2:18).

The marriage relationship is a unique and beautiful one. God has given us an “instruction book,” the Bible, on how to conduct our lives in order to experience all the joys and wonder that He wants for His children. That goes especially for the marriage relationship. Husbands, God, who created the marriage relationship, wants to be your Guide and Helper every step of the way. You do not have to go it alone.

I have only mentioned a few of the guidelines available in the Word of God, to help make life together as husband and wife exciting and fulfilling.

Husbands, love your wife as Christ does indeed love His church and gave Himself for it. Give of yourself, your time and your effort to, as it says in the last verse of Ephesians 5:33, “Let everyone of **you** in particular so **love his wife even as himself**; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”

Your wife will have no problem reverencing and submitting to a Godly man **who FIRST has himself submitted** to the greatest example of all, Jesus Christ.

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