

What the Bible did say...

Marriage

Genesis 2:20-24 Men and women complement each other. God fashioned them to be perfect Earthly companions. The intimate relationship that woman comes from man's flesh and yet women bear children is a testimony to the oneness of the marriage vow. God ordained this first marriage.

1 Peter 3:1-5 It is amazing how beautiful a wife can be based solely on her faith in God. This strength in the reliance on our Creator gives her the ability to influence her husband in his weakness. Adorn yourself in the hope of God. Husbands, as the head of your home, you should foster an environment where your wife is encouraged to seek the Lord as the source of her beauty.

Ephesians 5:22-33 It is Christ that laid Himself down for His bride (the Church), therefore the perfect example of sacrifice is the man laying himself down for his wife. With this perfect example, the wife will submit to her husband in all things. Submission is about love, not slavery...

Divorce

1 Corinthians 7:39 Husbands and wives are bound to one another. God allows divorce in the case of death of your spouse.

Mark 10:8-12 When you took marriage vows in front of God, you asked Him to join you. Now that He has joined you, it is not up to you to separate yourselves. Divorcing that going to another is adultery. (If you are in your second or third marriage, there is forgiveness)

Matthew 5:32 A cheating spouse is grounds for divorce. It doesn't mean that it is always the best choice, but God does allow it.

Children

Proverbs 22:6 Those first few years are so important. What are your children seeing you do? What do they hear coming out of you?

Ephesians 6:1-4 Children are supposed to be obedient, not spoiled little brats, not quiet little robots. They honor God when they honor their mom and dad.

Proverbs 13:24 When discipline is withheld, a child learns they can get away with anything. Is that the way the world works?

Mark 10:14 Jesus loves the way that children love. Their simple love is an example to us and how we interact with others.

Proverbs 13:22 Yes, this inheritance is monetary, we want our kids to be taken care of, but ultimately this is bringing your kids up with the fear and knowledge of the Lord. There is no better inheritance than knowledge.

Psalms 103:13 Our kids are not perfect because they are young and have not learned much yet. We often place major expectations on them and get upset when they fail. We still fail and we have had a lot of time to get it all right. They love you, guide them and love them back, even when they are not getting it all right.

Money

Luke 21:1-4 This is about knowing that the money was God's first. Then, it is about charity. How willing are you to see others in need and not help.

Luke 12:33-34 Again with charity, but with the reminder that what this does for you in eternity is much greater than the limited satisfaction of having wealth.

Matthew 15:21 We are all expected to be charitable, but those with a lot are expected to give much more. Are you giving what you can? Are you giving until it hurts a little?

Love

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Can I say that I exemplify all of these aspects of love?

Mark 12:29-31 The most important commandment: Love God. When we start there the rest falls in line.

John 13:34-35 Do people know that you are a disciple of the Lord? Do they see it in you? What you do and what you say is a reflection of who you are. If you don't think people, your kids or your wife are seeing what is Christ-like, it is time to work on your relationship with Him.

John 15:13 You get this...You understand sacrifice. This is a big part of your legacy.

Sex

1 Corinthians 7:3-5 Your body is not your own. Don't withhold from one another. Sex is not a tool to get what you want or withhold in anger. Sex is a gift God gave us to explore our intimacy. If you are withholding from your spouse and they are driven to the bed of another, you are part of the problem.

Proverbs 5:18-19 Remember what attracted you to your lover? Keep that attraction with each other. Enjoy one another. God made you perfect for one another.

Ephesians 5:13 As saints, children of God, sex as a sin is something we are not supposed to be a part of. It is sacred. It was designed to be a part of the marriage and in the marriage bed glorifies God. Outside of the marriage bed is impure.

Infidelity

Exodus 20:14 Right from the beginning of the commandments of God, don't cheat.

Matthew 5:28 Jesus took it to the next level, your lust for another is sinful. This includes porn. What grooves are you carving out in your mind? What are you starting to believe it is alright for your wife to do?

Hebrews 13:4 God knows what you are doing when your spouse is not around. It does not just dishonor your wife to be adulterous, it dishonors God.

Drinking/Drugs

Ephesians 5:18 Are you allowing yourself to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Does He show in you? When you are drunk or high, that is what shows, not your love and certainly not God.

1 Peter 5:8 When you are not sober, you are setting yourself up for an ambush. When, in any tactical situation, is it ok to let the enemy have the upper hand?

Proverbs 20:1 Booze and drugs lead you astray. Simple truth, you are a fool if you allow it.

Abuse

Proverbs 21:9 Sometimes, you need to create a little space to go seek out God instead of sticking around and seeing how many rounds you can go.

Proverbs 15:1 Communication...hardest thing we do as humans. It is amazing what soft questions and answers even in the face of a harsh response do for a situation.

Proverbs 22:10 What part of your life is telling you that your marriage is not good enough? What part of your heart is telling you that your home life is not enough? Get rid of that junk!

Ephesians 6:4 The only discipline our children really need is that which the Lord guides us in. If we understand love, we understand discipline.

Colossians 3:19 Plain and simple, do NOT be harsh, not kinda harsh, not sometimes, not only when you are really mad. Just do not.

The Military

Deuteronomy 24:5 The Israelites took care of their soldiers. We do not have this luxury. What we do have is the ability to make a deliberate decision to spend time together, focusing on each other, loving each other knowing that long times apart are coming.

Matthew 8:8-12 The centurion had such great faith in Jesus. A life of diversity helps to shape our faith. The military also teaches us well about servanthood and authority and guides us in our understanding of God's authority over all. Jesus found no one in Israel with an equal faith!

Luke 22:36 Jesus knew that the future would be violent. He never calls for indiscriminate violence, but He knew it was going to be imperative that a man knew how to defend his own.