

# Values Matter Discovery Starters

## We Value People

### 15. VALUE FAMILIES

YWAM affirms the importance of families serving God together in missions, not just the father and/or mother. We also embrace the inclusion of single-parent families. We encourage the development of strong and healthy family units, with each member sharing the call to missions and contributing their gifts in unique and complementary ways. We uphold and celebrate the Biblical view that God's intent for holy matrimony is between one man and one woman.

[Gen 2:21-24](#); [Gen 18:17-19](#); [Deu 6:6-7](#); [Pro 5:15-23](#); [Pro 31:10-31](#);  
[Mal 2:14-16](#); [Mat 19:3-9](#); [1Co 7:1-16](#); [1Ti 3:2-5](#); [Heb 13:4](#)

### Value #15 – Value Families: Mutuality in Marriage

#### Biblical Foundation:

7:<sup>1</sup> Now regarding the questions you asked in your letter. Yes, it is good to abstain from sexual relations. <sup>2</sup> But because there is so much sexual immorality,

**1A**– 7:<sup>2a</sup> ... each man should have his own wife,

**2A**– 7:<sup>3a</sup> The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife,

**3A**– 7:<sup>4a</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband.

**1B**– 7:<sup>2b</sup> **and** each woman her own husband.

**2B**– 7:<sup>3b</sup> **and likewise** the wife to her husband.

**3B**– 7:<sup>4b</sup> **In the same way**, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife.

**4AB** -- 7:<sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by **mutual** consent and for a time...

**5B**– 7:<sup>11b</sup> **And** a husband must not divorce his wife.

**6A**– 7:<sup>12</sup> ... If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her.

**7A**– 7:<sup>14a</sup> For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife,

**5A**– 7:<sup>10b-11</sup> A wife must not separate from her husband.

**6B**– 7:<sup>13</sup> **And** if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him.

**7B**– 7:<sup>14b</sup> **and** the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband...

**8AB**– 7:<sup>15</sup> *But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man **or** woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.*

**9B**– 7:<sup>16b</sup> *Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife? (NIV)*

**9A**– 7:<sup>16a</sup> *How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? (NIV)*

### **Discovery Starter:**

Paul's words from First Corinthians 7 (recorded above) stand in stark contrast to many cultural expressions of marriage. Whether ancient or modern, there are often double standards in marriage, whether implicit or explicit. There are different rule books by which each spouse is supposed to play the marital game. Not so in the Scriptures. In this amazing passage, Paul lays out the extraordinary, indeed the revolutionary pattern of mutuality in marriage built on transformational gospel standards. He lays out 9 different parallels between husband and wife which would have been totally shocking in his day and age. What is required of the wife is likewise enjoined of the husband. The rights given to the husband are also – in the same way – given to the wife. No one had ever heard of such mutuality. His radical words totally level the playing field in husband-wife relationships, transforming marriage in a most unusual way.

Priscilla and Aquila may be the most famous married couple in the New Testament. They are mentioned by name in Act 18:2-3,18-19,24-26; Rom 16:3-5; 1Co 16:19-20; and 2Ti 4:19. They are always linked together when ministry is mentioned. It seems that mutuality was not limited to their marital life, but to the apostolic ministry they shared as a couple. Husband and wife often have very differing gifts, but in God's good design they both find fruitful and fulfilling expression when they use their gifts together in God's kingdom purposes.

It is quite probable that the book of Hebrews was written by Priscilla. If so, hers is the only New Testament book authored by a woman. Towards the end of her "brief exhortation" (Heb 13:22), she wrote, "Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage." (Heb 13:4). Remain faithful. This involves all the little things. The unseen things. The daily things. The seemingly insignificant things. And it is here – among the little, unseen, daily, insignificant things of life – that great marriages are forged. It requires constant attention; daily focus, incessant commitment. Those who are faithful in the little things will reap great rewards.

### **Keep Going:**

In Greek there is a reciprocal pronoun – *allelon* – which describes the back-and-forth dynamic in a mutual give-and-take relationship. This word occurs eleven times in the last five chapters in Romans. You will find it in Rom 12:5,10a,10b,16; 13:8; 14:13,19; 15:5,7,14; and 16:16. The list of actions that we are to undertake for "one another" are

not limited to those in a marital relationship, but certainly (if these exhortations are followed) they would enhance any relationship, including that between a husband and a wife. Whether you are married or single, you can reflect on these passages that foster mutual love. Consider how you can better "one another" those with whom you live and work.

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