

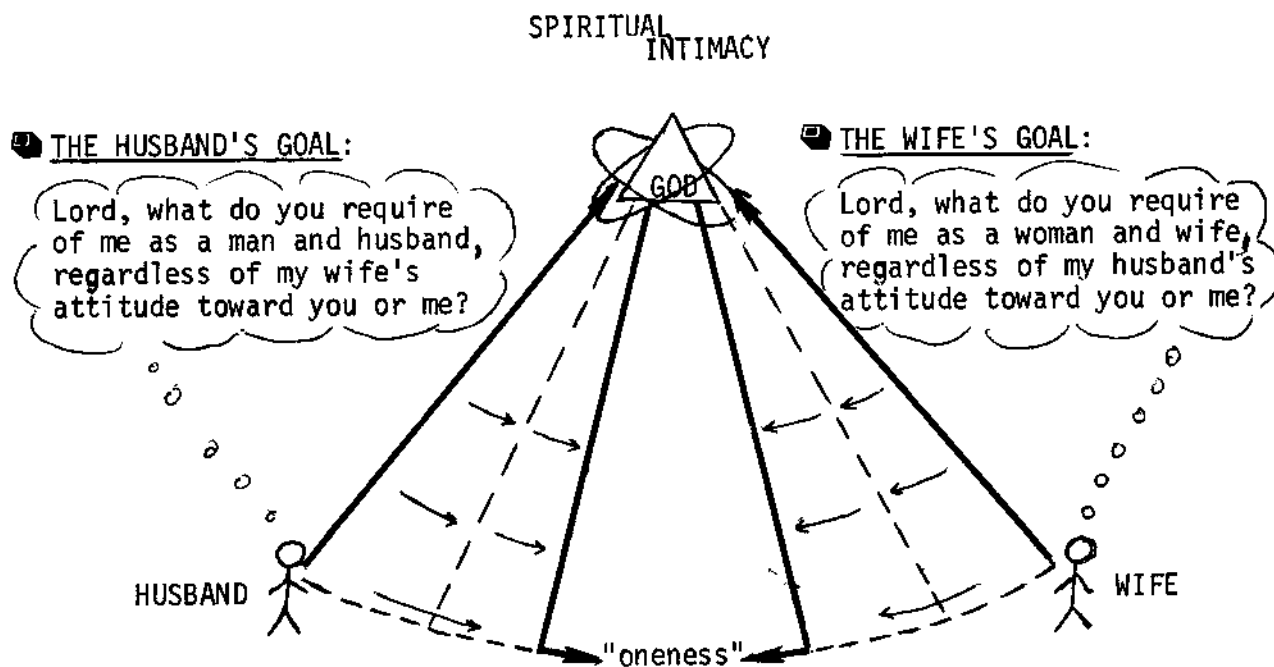
DEVELOPING
"ONENESS"
IN THE
MARRIAGE

DEVELOPING A "ONENESS" IN THE MARRIAGE

God is able to accomplish his ultimate purposes through a marriage when both husband and wife have purposed to become all that He wants them to be as individuals.

When each mate purposes to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ, their intimacy and oneness of spirit can become a reality.

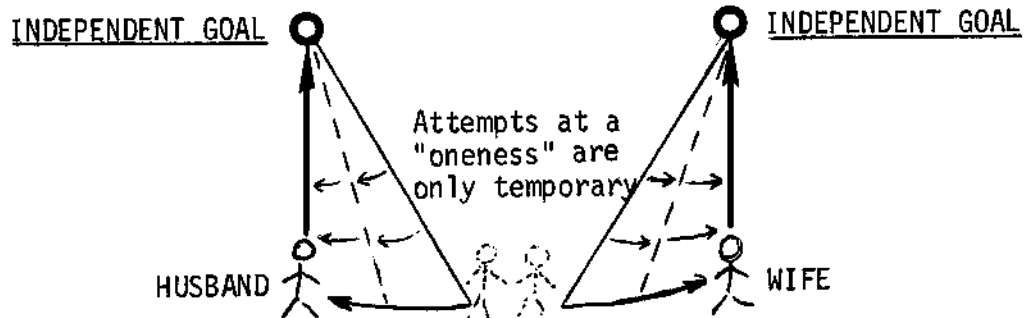
A marriage must be anchored on the focal point of God's will and purpose for their lives.



"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." Ephesians 5:21

This attitude by both partners is God's way of bringing two lives into a oneness of spirit, soul and body.

☛ Too often the "oneness" of a marriage is remote. Two people live together but follow two independent courses of action.



Their union and communication are temporary; then the weight of their independence swings them back into an egocentric relationship.

When the spirit is wounded, the oneness of the marriage may be lost. Therefore, it is essential that both husband and wife become sensitive to what they do consciously or unconsciously to wound the spirit of one another.

Each partner should be prepared to correct those areas in which he or she is offending his or her mate, and to assume the proper attitude and response in situations when the other partner does offend.

The goals and objectives of "developing oneness" is already defined in the following verse:

☛ *"Live together in harmony, live together in love, as though you had only one mind and spirit between you."*
| *Philippians 2:2 (Phillips)*

THE WIFE'S OBJECTIVES

The following are "objectives" that can help the wife evaluate areas she needs to develop in her relationship with her husband.

WIFE'S RESPONSIBILITY	RELATED SCRIPTURE	NEGATIVE AFFECTS ON THE HUSBAND
<p>1. <u>DEVELOP A CONFIDENCE IN THE HUSBAND'S DECISIONS</u></p> <p>Learn to deal with the problem rather than questioning, showing anxiety, or expressing disapproval over the husband's decisions with a resentful attitude.</p>	<p>→ I Peter 3:5, "This was the secret of the beauty of the holy women of ancient times who trusted in God and were submissive to their husbands." (Phillips)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making decisions without consulting the wife • Fear of failure in the wife's eyes
<p>2. <u>KEEP THE MOTIVES PURE TOWARD THE HUSBAND</u></p> <p>Make sure the actions and attitudes of the wife are because of her love for Christ rather than an attempt to change or get something from the husband.</p>	<p>→ I Timothy 1:5, "The ultimate aim of the Christian ministry, after all, is to produce the love which springs from a pure heart, a good conscience and a genuine faith." (Phillips)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels pressured to do things he does not want to do • Resents her attempts to manipulate him

3. LEARN TO APPRECIATE THE HUSBAND'S POSITIVE QUALITIES

Concentrate on drawing attention to the husband's strengths by visualizing his unique characteristics as an evidence of God's specific design for his life.

Phil 4:8, "Finally brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things."

- Feels rejected
- Inferiority complex to wife
- Competitive spirit with wife

4. DEVELOP LOYALTY IN THE CHILDREN TOWARDS THEIR FATHER

Build a sense of appreciation in the husband towards the wife by teaching the children to properly respond when wounded or disappointed by the Dad.

Eph. 4:32, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you."

- Lacks confidence in disciplining children
- Severs communication with wife
- Attempts to get even with the wife by showing favoritism towards the children in spite of the wife's decisions

5. FORGIVE THE PAST FAILURES OF THE HUSBAND

Be willing to completely forgive the wrongs done in the past.

Purpose ahead of time to forgive the future wounds and offenses.

Realize that failure to forgive reflects an attitude to "get even" and a preoccupation with self pity and pride.

Matt. 6:14, 15, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

- Ignores her
- Becomes easily angered
- Justifies his own negative attitudes and offenses toward the wife
- Questions the sincerity of her love

6. LEARN TO RELATE SCHEDULES AROUND THE PRIORITIES OF THE HUSBAND

A husband can't lead if the wife won't follow; neither can there be "oneness" in the family if the wife's and children's schedules are not integrated with the husband's priorities.

→ Eph. 5:21, 22, "And 'fit in with' each other, because of your common reverence for Christ. You wives must learn to adapt yourselves to your husbands..." (Phillips)

- Resents the independent attitude of the wife
- Tightens demands on the wife
- A tendency to get involved in "his world" in retaliation to the wife

7. SHOW AN APPRECIATION FOR THE ATTENTION THE HUSBAND MUST GIVE TO THE DETAILS OF HIS WORK

Learn the frame of reference from which the husband centers his time and actions.

→ Prov. 31:26, "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness."

Appreciate the hard work he exerts to accomplish his responsibilities.

- Senses he is not appreciated
- Spends more time at work
- Gives attention and time to meet the needs of others who build his ego

8. ENCOURAGE THE HUSBAND THROUGH FAILURES

Realize this is one of God's tools in teaching the husband.

→ I Pet. 3:1, "In the same spirit you married women should adapt yourselves to your husbands, so that even if they do not obey the Word of God they may be won to God without any word being spoken." (Phillips)

Accept his failures without saying "I told you so."

- Makes a joke out of everything
- Becomes silent
- Tends to draw attention to the wife's failures
- Irritable and touchy

9. ALWAYS ASK FORGIVENESS
WHEN THE WIFE WRONGS THE
HUSBAND

Realize that honor and respect are a result of being willing to admit a wrong.

There is a tendency when the wife feels the husband is insensitive, to minimize the need of asking forgiveness for things she feels are not as important.



Heb. 13:18, "Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly."

Prov. 18:12, "Before destruction the heart of man is haughty; and before honor is humility."

- Wounded spirit
- Bitter attitude towards wife
- Lack of freedom in communication

10. VISUALIZE THROUGH THE
NEGATIVE TRAITS IN THE
HUSBAND, THE POTENTIAL
QUALITIES GOD IS SEEKING
TO DEVELOP IN HIM

Itemize the characteristics in the husband which upset you.

Realize that negative traits can be positive qualities misused.

Purpose to cooperate with God in the development of those positive qualities.



Romans 8:28, 29, "And we know that all things work together for good to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son (developing positive qualities like Christ)..."

- Becomes defensive
- Feeling of rejection or inferiority
- Dwells on the wife's weaknesses
- Feels inadequate

11. DEVELOP A CONTENTMENT TO LIVE WITHIN THE HUSBAND'S INCOME

Realize that food and clothing are the basic needs for which the husband is responsible and God will provide.

Develop an appreciation for all God has supplied through the husband beyond basic needs rather than complaining or showing disappointment for what he has not supplied.



Phil. 4:11, 12, "I have learned to be content whatever my circumstances may be. I know how to live when things are prosperous. In general, and in particular, I have learned the secret of facing either plenty or poverty." (Phillips)

I Tim. 6:8 "And having food and raiment, let us be therewith content.

- Gives up in trying to please the wife
- Attempts to pacify the wife's discontentment by buying material things

THE HUSBAND'S OBJECTIVES

The following are "objectives" that will benefit the husband in evaluating areas he needs to develop and to strengthen.

HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITIES	RELATED SCRIPTURE	NEGATIVE AFFECTS ON THE WIFE
<p>1. <u>REALIZE THAT ONE OF THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE WIFE IS TO SENSE THAT SHE IS IMPORTANT TO HER HUSBAND</u></p> <p>Provide time in his priorities to adequately meet his wife's basic needs.</p>	<p>Eph. 5:25, "Husbands, love (a selfless love based on what he has to give to her, rather than his motive of what he can get) your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insecurity (feels she is not important) ● Loneliness ● Incomplete without him-- yet she has real and felt needs. She gives her life to him, thinking he's the <u>one</u> who loves her and wants to make her happy, and starts to think that he doesn't love her <u>that</u> much. ● Unloved (as a result, she looks elsewhere for her needs to be met) ● Seeks attention from any male who communicates

VALUE THE OPINIONS OF THE WIFE AS MUCH AS HE DOES HIS OWN

2. The average man tends to think a woman's ideas are inferior. She is deeply hurt if her ideas are not considered or even heard. Even though her frame of reference is different from the man's, her opinions are just as valuable. Very often the wife is a better judge of character due to sensitivity to the spirit of a person, whereas the husband tends to overlook character faults and concentrates on the logical nature of a person's ideas.

I Peter 3:7, "You married men, in the same way, must live with your wives in an intelligent consideration of them." (Williams)

- Inwardly hurt
- Resentful
- Lacks confidence that God even cares
- Refusal to share ideas with him
- Feels she is not important to him
- Inferior
- Lack of communication (afraid to give further opinions)

3. CONCENTRATE ON THE WIFE'S STRENGTHS

Look for ways to encourage her and to build her inner spirit.

When the husband concentrates on her weaknesses and failures, he is communicating that he does not accept her as she is.

Js. 4:11, "Don't criticize and speak evil about each other, dear brothers. If you do, you will be fighting against God's law of loving one another, declaring it is wrong..." (L. B.)

- Feels like she's being counselled
- Doesn't feel accepted by the husband
- Loses all self respect
- Doesn't care what happens
- Her focus becomes materialistic

4. LEARN HOW TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS RATHER THAN TRYING TO COUNSEL HER

Visualize through the negative traits in the wife, the potential qualities God is seeking to develop in her.

Learn to detect the real problems instead of attacking her character.

Purpose to cooperate with God in the development of those positive qualities.

Prov. 23:23, "Get the facts at any price, and hold tightly to all the good sense you can get." (L.B.)

Gal. 6:2, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

I Cor. 13:7, "Love bears up under anything and everything that comes and is ever ready to believe the best of every person..." (Amplified)

- Becomes Defensive
- Causes her to become angry, frustrated and threatened
- Causes her to feel inferior and depressed
- Feels that her husband is not concerned about her feelings
- Feels rejected in her role as a wife

5. GIVE THE WIFE ENOUGH TIME TO EXPRESS HER IDEAS

Often times it takes a woman more time to express her ideas. The husband's failure to provide time to listen or his impatience when listening, produces frustration and disillusionment.

I Cor. 13:4, "This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience -- it looks for a way of being constructive..." (Phillips)

- Envious husband (wants to be like him, be able to express ideas like him, etc.)
- Resentful
- Will not feel at ease when talking to him
- Everything builds within and then she tries to unload her heart at one long sitting
- Rather than being disappointed over and over again, she will not talk

6. PROJECT THE IDEA THAT AS A TOTAL PERSON THE WIFE IS THE PERFECT COMPLIMENT TO THE HUSBAND.

There is a tendency when the husband rejects his wife to compare her appearance and abilities with women who possess qualities she is lacking.

→ Prov. 31:28, "...He praises her with these words: 'There are many fine women in the world, but you are the best of them all'." (L.B.)

- Compares herself with other women
- Inwardly hurt because of husband's remarks about other women
- Feels husband compares her with other women
- Inward fear of the husband giving someone else the attention she needs
- Dresses to draw the attention of other men
- Feels inadequate

7. SPEND ENOUGH TIME WITH YOUR WIFE TO KNOW WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO HER. LEARN TO LOOK AT LIFE FROM HER POINT OF VIEW

Since a husband is often careless in seeing life from his wife's point of view, he will often overlook or be insensitive to her care for certain details and the little extras she does in expressing her love to him.

→ Phil 2:4, "None of you should think only of his own affairs, but should learn to see things from other people's point of view." (Phillips)

- Feels she is not important to him
- Feels lonely
- Feels that their goals are going in opposite directions
- Insecure in her duties as a wife

8. DEVELOP A CONFIDENCE TO SAY "NO" WHEN PEOPLE PRESSURE YOU INTO ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES THAT TAKE AWAY FROM LEGITIMATE FAMILY TIME

When a husband's priorities are out of line, he will be pressured by secondary issues rather than the primary responsibilities God has given him for his wife and children.

Eph. 5:16, "Make the best use of your time, despite all the difficulties of these days."

Psalms 90:12, "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

- Will lose respect for the husband
- Resentment to her husband and the people who infringe upon her time
- Doubts her husband's true love for her
- Inner resentment for his vocation and outside activities
- Feels that she and the family are not first place in his thinking
- Feels he doesn't practice what he preaches

9. THE HUSBAND SHOULD DETERMINE THE GOALS AND GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINING THE CHILDREN

The husband should also assume his responsibilities for disciplining the children. When he fails to do so, it puts added responsibilities on the wife. This will result in the children playing one parent against the other.

Eph. 6:4, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Mal. 4:5, 6, "Behold, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord; and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

- Feels rejected by the children
- Resentful to husband for not assuming his responsibilities
- Feels the husband degrades her in front of the children
- Lacks confidence in his authority and responsibility

10. PROVIDE ADEQUATE TIME TO DISCUSS WITH THE WIFE THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS FOR MAJOR CHANGES

The wife is able to make major adjustments if the husband has taken time to explain the reasons behind the move, and adequate time is allowed for the change. Inadequate time causes her to become insecure and apprehensive.

→ Prov. 20:13, "Don't go ahead with your plans without the advice of others..."

- Emotionally drained
- Apprehensive
- Feels husband is inconsiderate and indifferent toward others, especially the family
- Feels she is not important

11. BECOME DISCIPLINED IN YOUR INWARD ATTITUDES AND OUTWARD ACTIONS TOWARD THE WIFE

A wife is very sensitive about honesty and moral purity in the husband. Her admiration for him is greatly diminished when he exercises a lack of self control.

→ I Thess. 4:4, "Everyone of you should learn to control his body, keeping it pure and treating it with respect..." (Phillips)

- Loses admiration for husband
- Becomes cold and indifferent to his physical needs
- Develops an "I don't care" attitude

12. THERE SHOULD BE A CONTINUAL DEVELOPMENT OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP BY THE HUSBAND

The husband should provide Spiritual stability for the wife. When he fails to do this or shows disinterest, the long range results will be severe for the children and place unnecessary burdens on the wife.

→ Ex. 20:5, "... for I, the Lord thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me."

- Resentment for the burden of Spiritual development of the family being placed on her
- Looks down on him as the leader of the home

13. THE HUSBAND SHOULD AVOID JOKING AND JESTING AT THE EXPENSE OF THE WIFE IN FRONT OF OTHERS

There is a tendency for the husband to joke or make cutting remarks about his wife in front of others. This is usually an attempt to get her to change some characteristic which he dislikes.



Eph. 5:4, "The keynote of your conversation should not be nastiness or silliness or flippancy, but a sense of all that we owe to God." (Phillips)

Titus 2:6, "Young men likewise, exhort to be sober minded."

- Injures her spirit
- Feels embarrassed around others
- Fear in expressing her opinions
- Becomes discouraged in developing further positive qualities and then have them "shot down".

14. FORGIVE THE PAST FAILURES OF THE WIFE

Be willing to completely forgive the wrongs done in the past.

Purpose ahead of time to forgive the future wounds and offenses of the wife.

Realize that failure to forgive reflects an attitude to "get even" and a preoccupation with self pity and pride.



Mark 11:25, "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have anything against any, that your Father also, who is in heaven may forgive your trespasses."

- Questions the sincerity of his love
- Reacts to his attitude of superiority
- Justifies her own negative attitudes and offenses toward her husband

15. BE HONEST AND VERBALLY ADMIT WHEN YOU'RE WRONG

The husband must recognize that communication with his wife is his responsibility and that honor and respect are a result of being willing to admit a wrong and ask forgiveness.



Js. 5:16, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed..."

- Lacks humility toward the husband
- Her spirit becomes wounded
- Develops coolness toward the husband

16. DEFINE AND CLARIFY THE
BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES
WITH THE WIFE

It is essential that the husband communicate his frame of reference to the wife. This must be done by specifically identifying what he feels are his responsibilities. It is also necessary for him to clarify which areas he feels their responsibilities overlap.

I Tim. 3:5, "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?"

- Feels lonesome
- Builds resentments toward husband
- Loses respect for his unwillingness to do hard, or "nitty-gritty" work at home
- Feels like he isn't proud of the family and the home

● Even though these objectives are ideals, it is important for the husband and the wife to identify them as areas that need constant work.

It is natural to expect the mate to measure up to the above ideals by a certain time; however, nothing should be expected but an attitude of appreciation for the progress made thus far.