

April 2012 (edited for Website)

The Duties of Husbands and Wives

A Continuation of the Table of Duties

***Ephesians 5** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.*

Radical male and female feminists argue that there should be equality between the sexes without any distinctions. I experienced this ideology while living in Austin, TX, when I found myself in a unisex bathroom. Though some may try, you cannot ignore that God has created men and women differently. I don't only mean this in an anatomical sense, but in regards to roles within God's created order. It is most certainly true that men and women are equally valuable in the eyes of God, but there are God given distinctions. If these distinctions are properly understood, one can see God's wonderful design is indeed good (both before the fall into sin and in view of Christ's redemption.) Below is a short summary of the Biblical teaching of the duties of husbands and wives taken from the *Table of Duties*:

To Husbands

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. 1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Col. 3:19

To Wives

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. Eph. 5:22
They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. 1 Peter 3:5-6

I encourage you to look up the above references and to read them in their full context. You will only find further testimony that God's created order is good for men and women and is only offensive to fallen mankind.

For Christians living in a non-Christian and feminist culture it can often be awkward to discuss what God says about marriage and the duties of men and women. Our popular cultural dogma has even influenced many within churches. Many find themselves making excuses for the Word of God or even ignoring the countercultural verses that say things like, "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord." The only way to avoid such pitfalls is to submit to the Word of God and to have a right understanding. I would like to emphasize the phrase, "right understanding." On the opposite end of the spectrum from liberal churches that marry feminist

ideology and divorce the Bible - there are some 'bible' brand churches that do hold up these verses of Scripture, but misunderstand them. They misunderstand Scripture when they teach that a husband is free to sit as a tyrant over his wife, even making demands of her body. This is not the teaching of Scripture, though many within and outside of Christianity think that it is. Since this skewed view of the Bible is peddled by many other churches, it makes our job even harder. First, we must debunk the false idea that the Bible teaches a harsh male dictatorship, in addition to teaching the true Biblical marital duties.

So, what is the proper understanding of the duties listed above? Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the Church. So, how did Christ love the Church? Did Jesus beat us, His bride, into submission? No! Everything that He does has our best interests in mind. He loved us so much that he laid His life down for us. This is how husbands are to love their helpmeets. Husbands and churches are wrong when they think that it is OK for the husband to boss his wife around seeking only to serve his own needs first and not the needs of his wife.

Wives are to submit to their husbands as to the Lord. Just as Christ is the head of the Church, the husband is the head of his wife. It is a wonderful thing as a Church to submit to Christ and receive His sacrificial love and gifts. The same is true for a wife submitting to and receiving sacrificial love from her husband. When we rebel against God's created order it only leads to chaos. If you are married, you know this first hand.

Though we know what God's will is in marriage and in other aspects of life, we fail miserably, don't we? Husbands fail their God given duty and are sinfully self serving in marriage. Husbands don't love their wives (neighbors) as themselves or as Christ loved the Church. Husbands are harsh with their wives. Wives, too, sin by trying to be *as god* resisting the husband's headship that God ordained. Wives fail to respect their husbands as their duty requires. In summary, both fail to love and honor each other (6th Commandment).

Well, God has equipped marriage with a remedy to such sin – Confession and Absolution. We come to our Bridegroom confessing that we are poor miserable sinners who have been unfaithful to Him, but He freely and richly forgives us all our sins. In marriage husbands and wives confess their sins to one another so that they forgive their spouse's trespasses as God forgives. What a great gift that ever time you forgive your spouse you are reminded that the Father has forgiven you in Christ!

Though the fallen world may be offended and find the Word of God foolish in regards to marriage, to Christ crucified for the sin of the world, or to anything and everything else, we find great peace and comfort in God's wisdom that the world cannot give.

In Christ,

Pastor

ZION'S WOMEN'S SOCIETY

The Women's Society met on Thursday, March 8th. Eleven members, two guests and Pastor attended. Dianne Schroeder was hostess and served several kinds of quick breads.

Pastor led us in devotions. This month's topic was "Given" taken from the a Bible Study for the youth conference by "Higher Things." Several Bible passages were read. They showed that before we were given anything from Jesus He received gifts from the Father. All things were put under Jesus' power by the Father.

We are given the gift of the Holy Spirit when we are baptized. We receive Jesus' body and blood in Holy Communion. We are saved by God's grace along through faith. All of these are God's precious gifts given to us. To Him be the glory.

During the business meeting the group agreed to host the Easter breakfast with the Fellowship Board. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Doreen Szedlak will be the hostess for our next meeting, Thursday, April 12. Ladies of the congregation are invited to join us at 1:30 p.m.

BIBLE CLASSES

We are finishing up our study of Galatians during our 10:15 Bible class hour on Sundays. After Galatians, some future topics may include: "Witness, Mercy, and Life together," "The Liturgy and Worship," and "Holy Communion: Doctrine and Practice."

On Wednesday mornings at 9:30, we are currently study-ing the bible readings for the upcoming Sunday. This gives a foretaste of the feast to come, so to speak.

On Thursday afternoon at 1:00, we are wrapping up our study of the Christian faith using the Bible and Martin Luther's Small Catechism (adult catechism class.)

It is never too late to join one or all of our Bible classes.

Don't forget that the Sunday morning class is also open to jr. and sr. youth!

NOTE!

Flowers and radio: If you would like to furnish altar flowers or sponsor a radio broadcast for a special occasion, please call the office. Altar flowers are \$30.00. There is a flower chart on the left of the door as you enter from the education wing. Sign your name by the date you would like to furnish flowers. The radio broadcast is \$76.00. Call the office if you would like to furnish a broadcast or have any questions about flowers or the broadcast.

Prayer requests: if you would like a prayer on Sunday morning, please contact one of the secretaries during the week. If it is a last minute, you can also catch pastor before service.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FELLOWSHIP BOARD

As this is being written we have two more Lenten suppers yet to be served. Member participation has been great, both in attendance and providing food for the meals. It is good to see so many getting involved. Your support is so much appreciated.

The Women's Society along with the Fellowship Board will be providing the Easter Breakfast. Serving will be from 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. with a free will offering being taken. Everything will be provided. Please come and join us for a time of fellowship before attending the worship service praising our risen Lord and King.

EASTER WORSHIP

PALM SUNDAY worship at 9:00 a.m. with Holy Communion.

MAUNDY THURSDAY worship at 6:30 p.m. with Holy Communion

GOOD FRIDAY worship 6:30 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY: A breakfast will be served from 8:00 – 8:45 a.m.
Worship service at 9:00 a.m. with Holy Communion

Bring your family and friends.

VOTER'S MEETING

The Voter's Meeting will be Sunday, April 22nd in the fellowship hall following our worship service. All members 18 years and above are encouraged to attend.

All boards are asked to have their reports available.

Any board that has something they want brought to voters should talk to Tony Welke prior to the meeting so it can be put on the agenda.

LADIES:

Young at Heart retreat is at Faith Lutheran in Spooner, WI on April 14, 2012. You are most welcome. The cost to attend the retreat is \$25 by March 31st. You can still sign-up. Call Carol Gale 714-723-8048

The LWML SPRING RALLY will be held at Epiphany Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 28th. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Watch for more details in upcoming bulletins.

CHIPPEWA PALS

Chippewa Pals, a social organization for developmentally disabled adults, is in need of small prizes for their annual April Bingo party. Please have items here by April 22.

NEEDED! Cds, VHS and DVDs (used is ok), cologne, toiletries, stationary, nickknacks and stuffed animals, coloring and puzzle books (all levels), simple storybooks, yarn several members crochet) and snack items.

There is a collection box in the north entry way. Questions?
See Pam Rose or call 861-3962.

LUTHERAN BRAILLE

"Helping people touch the promises of Jesus"

Lutheran Braille Workers was founded by Helene Koehler in 1943 to bring the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to all the world. The LWB prepares to celebrate 70 years of God's grace in mission.

Because of the 5,000 volunteers who partner with Lutheran Braille Workers, more than 250,000 volumes of Braille and Large Print are sent to people with visual disability each year. That means people with few opportunities to read and study God's Word, have at their fingertips the life-giving message of Jesus.

In the beginning the transcribers used a slate and stylus to produce each page. The LBW's Braille Presses were made using rollers from old wringer washing machines. Transcribers must still translate the printed text into Braille dots through computers.

If you would like to donate to this wonderful mission, you can send your donations to:

**Lutheran Braille Workers
P. O. Box 5000
Yucaipa, CA 92399-1450**

CAMP LUTHER

The Camp Luther 2012 summer camp is off to a great start! January registrations are up 30% over each of the last two years. We pray that that pace holds and that our summer camps are flooding over with campers eager to learn about Jesus.

While we try to keep our registration fees as low as possible, it still has become unaffordable for many families. It's for this reason that our Campership Fund was created. We know there are many children who would like to attend camp. One hundred-forty camperships were awarded totaling \$18,500 in 2011.

What a blessing to help these families and these Children. Seeing those same children touched and changed as the love of Jesus is shared with them through their counselors, friends, songs, and importantly, God's Word.

A typical Campership Award is \$140.

Gifts of \$25, \$50, or \$100 would be appreciated to help with this growing need. We welcome and value any amounts given.

For more information contact:

Gary Vought
1889 Koubenec Rd.
Three Lakes, WI 54562
woody@campluther.com
877-364-CAMP

EVANGELISM & MISSIONS
BOARD

During the first quarter of 2012 the board has:

Updated Zion's information for the
Chippewa Herald
Printed church business cards to be
used by Pastor and members when
inviting people to Zion worship
services
Promoted and participated in the
Fundraiser for Hmong mission Pastor
Xiang in Eau Claire
Reviewed the quality of the audio tapes of
tapes of the worship services
Sent \$100 to the Joint Seminary Fund
Begun work on a new informational
brochure for Zion
Plan a Mission Sunday for 2012
Discuss an enlarged Missions Budget for
2012