

## Spreading The Gospel Together

As disciples of Christ, we are called to preach the Gospel and to make disciples of all nations.  
Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:19

This commission does not change when your marital status changes or when children are added to the family.

In fact, two people devoted to Christ should be better than one person alone.  
Ecclesiastes 4:9 and 10

There are added burdens in this life, with marriage and with other additional responsibilities, but this should not keep us from our devotion to our Lord.

*Now let me say this, dear brothers and sisters: The time that remains is very short, so husbands should not let marriage be their major concern. Happiness or sadness or wealth should not keep anyone from doing God's work. Those in frequent contact with the things of the world should make good use of them without becoming attached to them, for this world and all it contains will pass away. In everything you do, I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please him. But a married man can't do that so well. He has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife. His interests are divided. In the same way, a woman who is no longer married or has never been married can be more devoted to the Lord in body and in spirit, while the married woman must be concerned about her earthly responsibilities and how to please her husband. I am saying this for your benefit, not to place restrictions on you. I want you to do what ever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible.*

*I Corinthians 7:29-35 New Living Translation*

Marriage and family are part of God's design. Those who are overseers in the church should be able to handle these responsibilities and move forward with the work of the Lord.

I Timothy 3:2, 4-5

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

I Timothy 3:12

Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

Titus 1:5-6

For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:  
If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

Our marriages, our households, can be totally devoted to the work of the Lord.

I Corinthians 16:15

I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

We can live in this present age in our marriages, in our families, in our households, as lights of the world. We are not to be entangled with the affairs of this world, but we need to be out in the world, so that the life of Christ in us can be seen.

Make the most of every opportunity (Colossians 4:3-5)

- Hospitality (Romans 12:13; Heb 13:1-2)  
hospitality = GK: *philoxenia*; *philoxenos*  
*philos* (love, friend) + *xenos* (strangers)  
"Love strangers"
- Use every opportunity to be good to all men (Galatians 6:10)
- Be visible so that God can be glorified through your life (I Peter 2:11&12).
- Adorn the doctrine of God at work, school, etc. (Titus 2:9-10)

Example of a married couple devoted to the work of the Lord

## **Aquila & Priscilla**

They are always mentioned together as a couple.

Paul called Aquila & Priscilla his fellow workers, who risked their lives for him

Romans 16:3-4

Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:

Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

They had a church in their home

I Corinthians 16:19

The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

They were still with Paul at the end of his life. II Tim 4:19

Acts 18:1-2

*In 49 A.D., the Roman Emperor Claudius Caesar expelled all Jews from the city of Rome. This account is recorded by Suetonius, a court official who served under the Emperor Hadrian. He wrote a history entitled the 'Life of Claudius' in which he stated the following:*

***"Because the Jewish people were continually causing disorders, the catalyst being Chrestus, he expelled them from Rome"*** (Note: Chrestus may be an alternate spelling for Christus commonly used by Gentiles and may refer to Christ.)

Having a Jewish background, and being part of the Diaspora, Aquila & Priscilla would have had strong ties to the Synagogues in the cities where they lived.

Acts 18:3                      They had the same occupation as Paul

Acts 18:4-11                Entire households would come to the Lord.

Acts 18:18-20             They moved from Corinth to Asia minor – the city of Ephesus, for the sake of the Gospel.

Acts 18:24-26             "They expounded the way of God more perfectly"

Acts 19:8-10              They were part of the great move of the Gospel at Ephesus.