

## What is True Freedom?

How can we be free in marriage? The best way to be free in *any* relationship is to follow the lines of authority and responsibility that God set up. This is what God established:

God, of course, is the King and is the leader over everyone. Because he loves us so very much, his leadership is not a burden to us. It's a blessing to be able to serve the Lord.

God has given leadership – and responsibility – to people in various roles.

Husbands are to be the leaders in the families. They are responsible to God to love their wives, to raise their children in a godly manner and with godly teaching, and to make wise decisions for their families. Husbands should love their wives as much as they love themselves!

Wives are responsible to respect their husbands as men and to respect their leadership.

Children are responsible to obey their parents.

As in any leadership position, God holds the leaders responsible for their decisions and for the demands they place on other people. God holds the other people (e.g., the wives and children) responsible for respecting and obeying their leaders. Of course, if the leader tells you to do

something that would displease God – something that's sinful – you shouldn't do that.

Family relationships are very dependent on each person's relationship with God. A wife will find it much easier to respect her husband if her husband loves her and is submitted to God in his life. Children will find it much easier to obey their parents if their parents are submitted to each other and to God.

What about divorce? I know that many, many Americans get divorced and frequently get remarried. That is *not* what God wants for us. When Jesus was on earth, this is what he said about divorce:

It was said, "Whoever divorces his wife must give her a legal document." But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. (Matthew 5:31-32)

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I truly hope that divorce will never be a common thing in Kurdistan and that people will be faithful to their wives and husbands. Men, love your wives! Women, respect your husbands! That is how you will find true freedom in marriage.