








Marriage with Purpose

“And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly”
(Acts 18:26).

“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” (Romans 16:3-4).

Prisilla and Aquilla were an effective husband and wife team who worked diligently for the extension of the kingdom. Throughout the New Testament, they appeared ever willing to serve wherever and whenever needed. In the six references to this couple in the New Testament, they are always mentioned together, never separately. They made an impact on their world, even risking their lives for the sake of the gospel. They are a continuing example of what can happen when husband and a wife work together.

-  They worked together.
-  They prayed together.
-  They served together.
-  They taught together.
-  They encouraged together.
-  They were a team together.
-  They risked their lives together.

Priscilla stands out as one of the great women of the New Testament, always portrayed in team ministry with her husband.

They did not share the predicament found in the following story.

An African chief called his men together for a meeting at the town hall. He was concerned that there were no longer any genuine men left in his village. He thought that their wives were controlling them. To find out if this was true, he requested those that knew their wives ordered them around to leave the hall through the door on the right. Those that felt they were in charge of their home should leave through the door on the left. All of the men, except one, left through the door on the right.

The chief called his men together again and asked the brave, lonely man to come forward. The chief asked, “Could you share your secret?”

The man shyly responded, “When I left home this morning, my wife said to me, ‘Husband, never follow the crowd.’”

The *Life Application Bible Commentary (Acts)* describes four changeless qualities that enabled Priscilla and Aquilla to be a team in ministry.

- 📖 They were committed to truth and knew how to handle the Scriptures.
- 📖 Although they were tentmakers by trade, they were focused on ministry. They had an eye on eternity.
- 📖 They were available with their home always open and also willing to move wherever needed. (See I Corinthians 16:19 and Acts 18: 2, 18.)

They used their home as a center for spreading the gospel. Apollos was likely invited into their home where “they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly” (Acts 18:26).

- 📖 They were committed to ministry. Everywhere they went, lives were touched.

It Is Not Good to Be Alone

“And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him . . . And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him” (Genesis 2:18, 20).

The first title given to a woman was “helper.” The Hebrew word is interpreted as “help, counterpart of himself” (*Adam Clarke’s Commentary*). According to Charles Swindoll in *Strike the Original Match*, it refers to “one who assists another to reach total fulfillment; someone who comes to the rescue of another.”

The *World Book Dictionary* defines “helper” as “a person who helps; assistant, supporter.” It defines “help” as “to provide what is needed or useful . . . to relieve a person in want, trouble or distress . . . to make more effectual; assist in bringing about; further; promote . . . to assist to attain or obtain something specified . . .to be of service or advantage to; to make better.”

Because “it [was] not good for a man to be alone,” God desired to bring someone special alongside that was “suitable for him.” (Also read Genesis 2:21-22 and Ecclesiastes 4:9-12). A suitable helper was designed for man to complement his skills and disposition and to make him complete. She is to be a perfect fit. The right wife is worth waiting for and should be chosen carefully in harmony with the will of God

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh” (Ephesians 5:31).

“What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Mark 10:9).

Marriage works best when a husband and wife operate as a team, understanding each other and working together to accomplish the mission and purpose God has given them.

Study Questions

1. What is interesting about the six references to Aquila and Priscilla in the New Testament?

2. What is this couple an example of? _____

3. What four qualities enabled Priscilla and Aquila to have a marriage resulting in ministry?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

4. What was the first title ever given to a woman? _____

5. What is meant by "helper"? _____

6. What qualities does God look for in a couple when He brings them together? _____

7. Provide two scriptures that show God brings couples together. _____

Additional Notes
