

I have a question about Deuteronomy 22:13-22. Is the idea of using a bloody cloth as a test for a woman's virginity effective? In Deuteronomy 22:13-21, if a man's daughter is accused of fornication by her new husband, it says how her father should deal with the charge: "And the damsel's father shall say unto the elders, I gave my daughter unto this man to wife, and he hateth her; And, lo, he hath given occasions of speech against her, saying, I found not thy daughter a maid; and yet these are the tokens of my daughter's virginity. And they shall spread the cloth before the elders of the city. However, girls may break their hymens without ever having sex, which would render this test ineffective.

God protected wives. Regarding Deuteronomy 22:13-21 John MacArthur wrote:

An Israelite who doubted the virginity of his bride was to make a formal accusation to the "elders of the city." If her parents gave proof of virginity showing the accusation was false, the husband was to pay a penalty and was prohibited from divorcing the woman. However, if she was found not to be a virgin, then she was to be put to death.

...[T]he evidence of the young woman's virginity [was]...[p]robably a blood-stained garment or a bed sheet from the wedding night.¹

The test was not foolproof for the woman. A case would have to be made before the elders if her husband planned to put her away.

Satan hates women (Ge 3:15). Men who follow after him do, as well. They view women not as a sister in the Lord but as an object to be abused and discarded (Jn 8:44). A man who is not one with his wife--is not a man (Mt 19:6).

A man does not become a man until he is married [one] (e.g. Paul though single was married to Christ; the woman at the well accepted Jesus' word and then preached the gospel, etc.). In Christ there is neither male nor female—there is only 'Adon' male or mankind ([Ga 3:28](#)). A married man has achieved what he was called to achieve when he is one with his wife. The two can pray before God: the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (Jas 5:16).

A man without Christ is just a male—one without authority—presumptuous about something but unsure (2 Ti 3:7, 1 Co 13:11). Such a one has no business giving out the word (1 Ti 3:12).

They not he—they are called 'Anon' (lit. man). That light was the light of men—he and his wife together (Jn 1:4). From that fire of life 'esh' God made the woman. He opened up the side of man and made her: she is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh—from the fire of Almighty God he made her (Ge 2:23, Eph 5:28-30). The man was her source not head. God did not rebreathe life into the woman. The fire of life ('esh') was in them. That was the mystery revealed.

Jesus said:

At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." Jn 14:20–21

¹ MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). The MacArthur Study Bible (electronic ed., p. 281). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

He prayed to the Father:

May they all be one as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be one in Us, so the world may believe You sent Me...I am in them and You are in Me. May they be made completely one (Jn 17:21-23).

When one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side blood and water came out (Jn 19:34). The Jews should have known that the life of men was in him by this imagery. Jesus had told the woman at the well, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water (Jn 4:10)."

When a man will not be one with his wife, he looks for a way out (1 Ti 4:1-3). Should he fail to become one with her, it is unlikely that he will become one with the Lord (1 Jn 3:10). Marriage is about the display of covenant keeping—marriage is about the gospel of Jesus Christ (Eph. 5:21-33).

So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate. Mt 19:6

For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. Ro 7:2

Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. Heb 13:4

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. Ga 6:7

For if you live according to the flesh you will die. Ro 8:13

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. Re 21:8

For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. Mt 22:30