

The woman's role in marriage

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INTRODUCTION:

A. The lessons from this series:

1. 327_Introduction to the series about the family
2. 591_Marriage: Its purpose
3. 592_Marriage: Its permanency
4. 015_The man's role in marriage
5. 017_The woman's role in marriage
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8. 597_Loving intellectually
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14. 608_Training our children: Education
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16. 610_Training our children: Direction
17. 612_Biblical cases of fathers and sons
18. 611_The relationship between siblings
19. 440_What every youth wants in reality
20. 618_Courtship: Preparation for marriage
21. 021_The family who is centered in Christ

B. A summary of the purpose of the creation of woman

1. She was taken from man (**Genesis 2:21-22**)
2. She was brought to man (**Genesis 2:22**)
3. Because woman was created for man
 - a. At the beginning man needed a "helper", "helpmeet" (**Genesis 2:18, 20**)
 - b. **1 Cor. 11:9** – "for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake" – **ASV77**

C. It is not a surprise then that in family, man and woman have different roles.

1. The husband is head of the family (**Ephesians 5:23**)
2. Among other things, the wife has been commanded by the Lord to submit to her husband (**Ephesians 5:22**)

D. Is woman inferior to man? Clearly NOT!

1. One good thing (**Proverbs 18:22**)
2. Of great value (**Proverbs 31:10**)
3. Inferior, NO!
 - a. Let us have one thing present it is not a question of superiority or inferiority. Also it is not a question about which soul is worth more, man and woman's souls are worth the same.

- b. The question is the different roles, responsibilities man and woman have, it is about the responsibility God has given to each individual in the family.

E. The objective of this sermon:

1. What are the responsibilities of the wife in the family?
2. The good results when this role is fulfilled

I. THE WIFE'S RESPONSABILITY

A. To be submissive to her husband (Ephesians 5:22, 24, 33; 1 Peter 3:1-6)

1. Is it possible? Remember it is not a unique circumstance
 - a. It could be difficult, but also for the husband (**1 Cor. 11:3**).
 - b. To be submissive is for all of the saints in our spiritual family (**Ephesians 5:21**), and then everyone submits to God (**James 4:7**).
 - c. If there is a problem for the wife or any other Christian to submit it is because of pride
2. In the negative sense it means not to exercise dominion over man (**1 Timothy 2:12**).
3. In the positive sense it means to follow the head of household (**Ephesians 5:23-24**).
4. **Ephesians 5:22, 24, 33**
 - a. Many of the wives try to obligate their husbands to love them instead of fulfilling their own responsibility.
 - 1) The same can be said about husbands trying to obligate their wives to submit to them.
 - 2) Where in the Bible does it mention for the wife to obligate their husbands to love them? The same question can be stated for the man who wants to obligate their wife to be submissive to them.
 - 3) Please notice that each one of them has to be preoccupied with fulfilling their proper role in marriage, their responsibilities.
 - 4) In the last day in the last day of judgment the question God will be making to the wife will not be how did her husband govern their house, but rather if she submitted to her husband.
 - b. "Wives, be subject to your own husbands, **as to the Lord.**"- (**Ephesians 5:22**)
 - 1) To "be subject to your own husbands" is only part of the truth
 - 2) The Biblical text adds the following:
 - (a) "as to the Lord" (**Ephesians 5:22**)
 - (b) "But as the church is subject to Christ" (**Ephesians 5:24**)
 - (c) For the wife to be in subjection "in everything" to her husband (**Ephesians 5:24**)
 - (d) "the wife see to it that she respect her husband" (**Ephesians 5:33**)
 - 3) A wife can submit to her husband without complying with this verse!
 - (a) The wife may complaint, get mad, dispute and fight back and then she submits to her husband and says, "Ok, its fine. This is not to be subject to her husband as the Lord commanded.
 - (b) **Proverbs 19:13**
 - (c) **Proverbs 21:9**
 - 4) In everything as long it does not go against the will of God (**Acts 5:29**).
5. **1 Peter 3:1-6**
 - a. The submission of a married woman does not depend upon the spiritual status of the husband
 - 1) Even if the husband is not a Christian the wife is still needs to comply with the commandment of the Lord
 - 2) Compare the same situation of a slave with his owner (**1 Peter 2:18-20**)
 - b. The type of submission:
 - 1) Positive sense: conduct...respectful behavior (**1 Peter 3:2**)

- 2) Negative sense:
 - (a) "Without being frightened by any fear"
 - (b) Meaning to have confidence in the Lord (see commentary)
6. Erroneous concepts about the submission of a wife
 - a. No wife needs to bow before the husband and worship him.
 - b. The wife is not a property of the husband so that he can do to the wife what he pleases
 - c. She is not a slave! Meaning that she has to drop what she is doing and do what the husband demands
 - d. Definitely she is NOT a machine! That can be turned on and be ready to cook, clean dishes, clothes and then she is turned off when she complains and left on a corner.
 - e. Submission according to the Lord is NOT suppressing the wife's character or personality.
7. Is the woman inferior to man?
 - a. She has also a role where she governs (more about this latter).
 - b. Does the church have to feel inferior because she has to submit to Christ? (**Ephesians 5:24**).
 - c. Submission is not an insult or offense
 - 1) Should being a vice president of the country be offensive or an insult? What about being a deacon or an elder of the church?
 - 2) Let us remember that the wife is helpmeet, a helper. Man cannot do it by himself! No man can put what woman can and her role in the family is of supreme importance!
 - 3) Notice that each step on a latter is important, each body member of our body is important; therefore, what she does it is very important.

B. Bearing of children (1 Timothy 2:12-15)

1. This declaration is based from the events in Genesis 3 (see **1 Timothy 2:14**).
 - a. The curse for Eve (the woman) see **Genesis 3:16**
 - b. In view of the sin of Eve and the curse for every woman, the apostle Paul says that she can save from this embarrassing history by obeying God, thus by submitting to this role given to her from the Garden of Eden.
2. Paul is not saying that only in this condition woman will be preserved, salvation
 - a. Notice the following statement by the apostle Paul, "if they continue in faith and love and sanctify with self-restrain" (**1 Timothy 2:15**).
 - b. These woman were already saved by their faith (**Romans 3:28**) When they were saved, God sanctified them and learned love. Now they had to remain in faith to the thing that gave them salvation. Also their future salvation depended on their continual obedience. Among other things to obey God and the role she was given to bear children.
3. A general principal that it may not have an application for every woman
 - a. The Bible mentions many women who are sterile who pleased God
 - 1) Some of them received sons from God: Sarah (mother of Isaac), Hannah (mother of Samuel; **1 Samuel 1**), a woman of Shunem (**2 Kings 4**), Elizabeth (mother of John the baptizer, John **Luke 1**), etc. **Psalm 113:9**.
 - 2) If a wife wants children it is continent to pray to ask, but if she does not bear a child she could always please God and go to heaven.
 - b. The apostle Paul recommended for the virgin woman to remain as is (**1 Cor. 7:8, 34, 37-38**; but marrying was not a sin as well). Could the virgin woman be saved without children, of course, yes!

C. To govern their houses (1 Timothy 5:14)

1. Not like the king but like a queen
2. Her submission to her husband does not mean that she does not have any dominion whatsoever

- a. "Keep house" – **ASV77**, "rule the household" – **ASV**, it is to govern or manage their house well.
 - b. Therefore she is the queen of the house, and her house is the palace. It should be a tranquil place, a place where you can find peace; it should be a refuge place. It is not an easy task!
 - c. Control over the children
 - d. Supervision on provisions: food, clothing, consuming goods, etc.
 - e. Assigns chores and work to the children when they are able
3. Husbands...
- a. Let us respect the authority woman has (some husbands want a nice home, to be maintain and well supplied, but they do not want to give the money to achieved this!)
 - b. Let us teach our children to respect their mom
 - 1) A good way of doing this is by our very example, how do we treat our wives?
4. For the wives, accept your responsibility. Not all teaching and instruction should be left to the husband only...if the child needs to discipline when the husband is at work or not there then take the responsibility and discipline and teach the child.

D. "Workers at home" (Titus 2:4-5)

1. "To love their husbands" (vs. 4)
2. "To love their children" (vs. 4)
 - a. Taking into account their incapacity: food, dress them up, change diapers, protect, taking care of their scrapes, bruises, etc. with a band-aid, to know when they need a nap, select their food (what is best for them), to give them emotional support when they are scared, sad, etc.
 - b. Spiritual training: to read them the Bible, teaching them by example
 - c. None of these things can be provided to the child while the child is at the "day care" or baby sitter.
3. "To be sensible" (vs. 5)
 - a. Not interested on the vanity of magazine or soap shows on television, etc.
 - b. To be serious about their task or role their responsibility they have been entrusted. There are permanent consequences when not complying with our responsibility.
4. "Pure" (vs. 5)
 - a. This is moral purity, not only by her but also the husband as well
5. "Workers at home" (vs. 5)
 - a. Notice what the text does not say, workers at Wal-Mart (secular job, not unless you are a single mom trying to provide for your family), let us be honest! The text says "workers at home"
6. "Kind" (vs. 5)
 - a. From the Greek word *hagnos* – "signifies pure from every fault, immaculate" – (Vine NT, e-sword edition)
 - b. See (**Proverbs 21:19**)
7. "Being subject to their own husbands" (vs. 5)
 - a. See previous point under main point I. A.

II. GOOD RESULTS

A. God is honored (1 Peter 3:4)

B. The woman is honored

1. Praised for her deeds (**Proverbs 31:31**)
2. Praised by her children (**Proverbs 31:28a**)
3. Praised by her husband (**Proverbs 31:28b-29**).
4. Praised by God (**Proverbs 31:30, 10**)

C. She would be of a great influence to her husband

1. She could convert her non-believer husband (**1 Peter 3:1**)

2. Even if she is married to a good husband she could even make him better (**Proverbs 31:11-12, 23**).
 3. Consider the following (**Proverbs 12:4**)
- D. A well organized and happy home!**

CONCLUSION:

- A. The role of a wife in a marriage is a role of submission to her husband**
1. The role of a wife in the family is of a role of great responsibility which is praised and honored by the word of God. It really works!
- B. Special medium by which woman will be saved (1 Timothy 2:15)**
1. Sisters, do you follow this role that God has given you?
 2. You cannot “continue in faith” if you have not confessed your faith to Christ (**Romans 10:9-10**)
 3. To “believe” is to obey God’s will, His plan of salvation!

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