

SCOTTLINK

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your prayers and financial partnership.

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The Biblical Living Series: Marriage Part 3: A Wife's Role

We continue our Biblical Living Series with Part 3 of Marriage: A Wife's Role (To read the previous newsletters in this series click on the link below in our contact information to the left). As we mentioned previously, our current culture wants to destroy God's marriage. One primary way that is happening is by confusing the specific roles that God has given to husbands and wives.

A wife finds joy of bringing glory to God by *completing* her husband (Genesis 1:26-31; 2:18-25).

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." —Genesis 2:18

There is a honorable nature of this position, *helper fit for him*, which means 'one who helps.' "helper" frequently describes God in the Scriptures:

- *Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.* —Psalm 54:4
- *Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!* —Psalm 30:10
- *So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"* —Hebrews 13:10

There is a potential delight of completing a person who is *not complete* without you.

1. Completing him in companionship with each other (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18, 20, 24).
2. Completing him in a sexual relationship with each other (Genesis 1:28; 2:25; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5).
3. Completing him in the responsibilities (work/job) he has to fulfill (Genesis 1:28).
4. Completing him in the parenting process (Genesis 1:28; 2:24).

A wife finds joy of bringing glory to God by *following* her husband's leadership (Ephesians 5:22-24).

Wives, submit to your own husband, as to the Lord. —Ephesians 5:22

Submission here is a verb, an action that the wife performs rather than something that happens to her. Often submission is presented as oppressive in our culture, which it has been in far too many situations. However, here Paul is comparing a wife's submission to her husband with that of her submission to Christ, willful. Why would she do this? Ephesians five helps explain. 1) Submission is good because it is present in the Godhead. Ephesians 5:1-2, *"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fra-*

grant offering and sacrifice to God.” Christ submitted himself to the will of the Father and became a life sacrifice (see also 1 John 1:1-3). 2) Submission is good because it is a way of life for every believer, not just the wife. Ephesians 5:21, “*submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*” 3) Submission is good because it reveals a person’s character and spiritual maturity.

1. Submission reveals one’s *love* for God.

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. —John 14:15

But so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded me. —John 14:31

2. Submission reveals if a person is “filled with the Spirit” (*Controlled*).

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit...—Ephesians 5:18

3. Submission reveals one’s *view* of Christ’s authority.

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. —Ephesians 5:22

4. Submission reveals a wife’s *heart* (inner man) & impacts her true beauty (outer man)

Likewise, wives, be subject (submit) to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives...—1 Peter 3:1

4) Submission is a picture of the Church obeying Christ (Ephesians 5:22-24).

Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. —Ephesians 5:24

Since Jesus is the only *perfect* leader, all wives face the challenge of following *imperfect* leadership in the home. God never gives all of His authority to any one specific person or institution. Your relationship with your husband will be determined by your relationship with your Savior!

Strong Christians = Strong Marriages = Strong Families = Strong Churches

Practical ways to show respect to your husband:

- Practice godly communication (Eph 4:25).
- Ask questions instead of making accusations.
- Practice humility (avoid a proud attitude)
- By showing grace in your words and tone of voice (Col 4:6)
- By expressing gratitude (even in difficult circumstances) (1 Thes 5:18).
- Avoid gossip or being critical of your husband in public or privately to others who are not part of the problem or the solution (Proverbs 20:19).
- Choose to believe the best about him (1 Cor. 13:7).
- Deal with your problems first before trying to help him to please God (Matt 7:1-5)
- Pray for him daily (Matt 21:22).