

Strengthening the Bond – What the Bible Teaches on Marriage

Roles in Marriage

The husband and wife share EQUAL POSITIONS before the Face of God

1. Equal dignity as creatures (Gen. 1:27): the woman is equally the image bear of God as the man.
2. Equal depravity as sinners (Rom. 5:12 & 3:10-18): we all share in the sin & depravity of fall into sin
3. Equal privilege as believers (Gal. 3:28): In Christ, both the believing husband and the believing wife receive a full pardon, the righteousness of Christ, and are heirs of eternal life.

The husband and wife share MUTUAL DUTIES by the Command of God

1. Mutual Submission to one another (Eph. 5:21; Phil. 2:3)
 - a. Not self-serving, self-seeking
 - b. But serving one another, seeking the good of one another
2. Mutual Assistance to one another (Eccl. 9:9-12)
 - a. In the cares of earthly life
 - b. In the cares of eternal life
3. Mutual Love for one another (1 Pet. 1:22; 1 Pet. 4:8)
 - a. J.R. Miller: Perfect harmony (in marriage) must come through gentleness. The present duty is unselfish love. Each must forget self in devotion to the other. Each must blame self and not the other when anything goes wrong. There must be the largest and gentlest forbearance. Impatience may wreck all. A sharp word may injure the process of soul-blending
 - b. This means we must watch against every smallest beginning of misunderstanding or alienation. When we have said or done amiss, confess it, and ask for forgiveness. Don't let home lose its warmth of love

The husband and wife have SPECIFIC ROLES by the Design of God

1. Role of the Husband
 - a. L_____ (Gen. 1:28; 3:19; Ps. 128:2; 1 Tim. 5:8; Eph. 4:28; Jn 6:27)
 - b. L_____ (Eph. 5:23; 1 Tim. 3:4-5, 12; 1 Cor. 11:3)
 - i. Servant leader
 - ii. Spiritual leader
 - c. L_____ (1 Pet. 3:7; Eph. 5:28, 33; Eph 5:25)

- i. Means: Husband has to take time to _____
- ii. Communicated Love
- iii. Protecting Love
- iv. Providing Love
- v. Sacrificial Love

2. Role of the Wife

- a. H _____ (Tits 2:5; 1 Tim. 5:14; Prov. 31:27)
 - i. Special place
 - ii. Special calling
- b. H _____ (Eph. 5:22, 24, 33; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:11-12; 1 Pet. 3:1; Tit. 2:4-5)
 - i. Submission learned at the feet of Christ
 - ii. Husband makes final decision. Illustration: _____
 - iii. A wife may have her opinions, requests, and she lovingly makes them known.
But she knows he leads
 - iv. What if he is an unbeliever? 1 Pet 3:1
 - v. Does it depend on husband's abilities, talents, etc? No, it must be extensive submission: "In everything" (Eph. 5:24). One exception (Acts 5:29)
- c. H _____ (Gen. 2:18)
 - i. Negatively: Not hinder, or anything that will be harmful/detrimental to husband
 - ii. Positively: putting gifts at disposal of husband