

V. The RESPONSIBILITIES of Marriage

(How to fulfill you God-given Roles as Husband & Wife)

Today, we continually hear the clamor of people demanding their "rights."
What we don't hear much is talk about the word: "responsibility!"

For Husbands & Wives it is vitally important to know what our roles are;
what our proper place is; what our responsibilities in marriage should be.



The basic domestic responsibilities as outlined by God, the Architect of Marriage are found in the following Scriptures:

Wives	Husbands
Ephesians 5:22-24;33b Colossians 3:18 I Peter 3:1-6	Ephesians 5:25-33a Colossians 3:19 I Peter 3:7

Basically, God's roles are as follows:

The Biblical role of the wife is to be a _____ supporter.

The Biblical role of the husband is to be a _____ leader.

A. The Biblical Role of the Wife

What is Biblical Submission?

What Submission is NOT

- Submission is not just for women, but for _____ believers
(Eph.5:21; Phil.2:3,4; I Pet 5:5; Rom. 13:1; Heb. 13:17)

Examples of submission:

Believers to Christ (Eph.5:24)

Believers to each other (Eph.5:21)

Believers to Church Leadership (Heb.13:17)

People to Government (Rom.13:1-f)

Husbands to Christ (I Cor.11:3)

- Submission does not make the woman the _____ of their husband.
Rather a "princess" to be cared for, provided for, led, protected etc.
- Submission does not mean that the wife must be dormant, reclusive, or silent.
- Submission does not mean she should never give advice or _____ -- her view are as equally valid as anyone's within the limits of God's Word (Prov.31:26; Acts 18:26; Judges 13:23)
- Submission does not mean she is _____ to or holds an inferior position to the man (Lk.2:51; I Cor.11:3; Jn. 5:30; I Cor.12). The man's and woman's positions are different, but not inferior/superior.

Submission implies a difference of function and not of essence (Example: The Father is the Head of Christ (I Cor.11:3), but in essence is not superior but equal (Phil.2:6; Jn.10:30).

What Submission IS

Ephesians 5:22-24 may be outlined thus:

- The command to submission (v.22)
- The reason for submission (v.23)
- The Pattern for submission (v.24)

How Should the Church Submit to Christ?

The Church to Christ

Matthew 11:28-30

The Wife to the Husband

By _____

John 10:27
John 12:26
Philippians 4:6
I Peter 3:18

By _____
By _____
By _____
By _____

What is Biblical Submission?

1. **Submission is the wife's responsibility to place herself _____ (Headship) of her husband.** (Eph. 5:23)

The word "submit" (hupotasso) is a military term or a term of rank, which means "to rank under," to take your place under" (Cp.Eph.1:22); to "subject yourself under the authority of someone else (Lk.2:51).

2. **Submission is an unconditional _____, not an option for the believer** (Eph.5:22)

Note: This mandate is not "outdated" (Submission has been a God-ordained principle since creation)
This mandate is not conditioned on the whether or not the Husband does his role. (Wives are to submit even when their husbands are unbelievers -I Pet.3:1)

3. **Submission is a _____ decision on the part of the wife.**

Wives are to choose to "submit themselves" The Husband is never told to make her submit!

4. **Submission involves _____ as well as action.**

That attitude is the inner beauty of a "gentle and quiet spirit" (I Pet.3:4)

This attitude is one of _____ for the husband's _____ (Eph. 5:23, 33)

5. **Submission is a _____ matter.** You cannot be submissive to God without being submissive to your husband. God commands submission.

Therefore if the wife does not submit: She sins against God.

Her prayers will not be answered (I Pet.3:7)

She is not a spiritual woman

6. **Submission is not a " _____ & _____ " matter.**

"in everything" (Eph.5:24)

"as it is fit in the Lord" (Col.3:18)

7. **Submission to authority brings _____ & _____ to the wife**

3 blessings that come to those who submit to authority (outline by Bill Gothard):

a. **You _____ in wisdom and character** (See: the example of Jesus as a 12-year old boy - Luke 2:49-52).

b. **You gain _____ from destructive temptations**

"The essence of submission is not 'getting under the domination of authority,' but rather 'getting under the protection of authority.'

Authority is like

an 'umbrella of protection' ." (Gothard, Basic Seminar Textbook, p. 20)

c. **You receive clear _____ for life decisions**

How does God speak to us? Obviously through His Word the Bible. However, in the details of life, how does He direct us?

***A wife who submits to her Husband is showing that:
She trusts God to work through the decisions of her husband.***

How to be Submissive when it goes against your old nature

1. Make sure you have been Born Again (regenerated) (John 3; Titus 3:5)

2. Believe that Submission is the _____ of God.
3. Be submissive to _____. If you won't submit to God's authority, you won't to any other authority.
4. Be _____ to the Spirit (Eph. 5:18) Only as He controls you will you be controlled.
5. Develop new _____ of behavior patiently! (New response patterns take time & Biblical instruction)
6. Don't _____ with people who discourage submissiveness. ("Evil communications corrupt good manners" I Cor. 15:33)
7. _____ God to work through the authority He has placed over you (whether you feel his decisions are right or wrong)
8. Simply let your motivation for submission be _____. Do it for God's glory (Titus 2:5)

B. The Biblical Role of the HUSBAND

What is Biblical LOVE?

See: Ephesians 5:25-33

The word "love" is the Koine Greek word "agapao." This is a special love. It's a love that _____ (Jn. 3:16; hence it is often translated "charity" - I Cor. 13)



The love that husbands are to have toward their wives is:

1. **A _____ love**
By this I mean it does not come naturally.
It is a capacity that comes only from God. This love has its source only in God (I Jn. 4:7 - "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.") No unsaved man has the capacity (ability) to have such a love.
2. **A _____ love**
The kind of love God expects the husband to have is not dependent upon the of the wife. This love, as ultimately exemplified by God, is a love that gives even when the recipient of that love is an unworthy, evil wretch (Rom. 5:8).
3. **A _____ love (a willing love)**
Love is a choice; a decision; an act of the will.
"Love" - not a mere emotional feeling, but does not exclude feeling either. It means to feel for someone (to empathize) and thereby be motivated to respond to meet their needs.
4. **A _____ love**
The present tense imperative emphasizes the constant year by year, day by day, minute by minute nature of the love.

5. **A _____ - _____ Love** *"even as Christ also loved the Church" (v.25)*

Basically, to answer the question:

"How should I love my wife?" Ask yourself another question: "How does Christ love His Church?"

How does Christ love His Church?

Christ to His Church

Psalm 23:4

Matthew 11:28-30

John 10:11

John 13:12-15

John 14:2-3

John 17:20

Romans 8:38-39

The Husband to His Wife

By _____ her.

By _____ her.

By _____ her.

By _____ her.

By _____ her.

By _____ for her.

By remaining _____ to her.

"A man was afraid that he loved his wife too much. He was then asked if he loved her as much as Christ loved the Church. When he answered, "No," he was told, "Then you must love her more." (MacArthur)

6. A _____ Love "and gave Himself for her [it]" (v. 25)
Why did Christ sacrifice Himself for the Church?
- a. **Christ sacrificed Himself so that He could have a _____ relationship with His Bride**

"Sanctify" = to set apart

- b. **Christ sacrificed Himself so that He could have a _____ relationship with His Bride**

He gave Himself for the spiritual purity He desired in His Church.

If you love your wife, you will desire her to be pure. You will want her to be Godly, not worldly.

Love never _____ the one it loves; rather, love desires purity.

If you love your wife, you will not put her in circumstances where her purity might be jeopardized.

7. A _____ Love (v. 28, 29)

Love your wife as you naturally love yourself.

The better you treat your wife, the better you treat yourself. If you harm your wife, you are harming yourself. If you care for your wife, you are caring for yourself! Why? Because you are one with her.

8. A _____ Love (v. 29)

- a. _____ for her (meet her physical needs)

"Nourisheth" = to feed or provide for

I Timothy 5:8 - "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

- b. _____ her (meet her emotional needs)

"Cherisheth" = to keep warm, to be chivalrous, to show tender love and physical affection so as to give emotional warmth, comfort, protection and security.

I Peter 3:7 - "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

_____ your wife -Be sensitive and considerate of her feelings and needs.

_____ your wife -Treat her as valuable, as priceless, as special!

Honor her because of the worth she has in God's eyes.

That which you honor, you like. In other words you will come to appreciate her if you value her.

9. A _____ Love

"Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them" (Col. 3:19)

"Be not bitter against them" - Do not allow yourself to become bitter.

Evidently the reason why God added this phrase, is because He knows that this is a tendency in marriages.

To be "bitter" in a relationship is to be resentful and unforgiving.

How do I know when I am not bitter? Answer: When you can pray for the well-being and blessing of your spouse. True love forgives a multitude of sins (I Peter 4:8)

Practical Ways to Love Your Wife

1. Say "I love you" often.
2. Touch, hug, and kiss her frequently (do so to unselfishly please her).

3. Lead her by setting the right example of Godliness.
4. Provide security by being the "breadwinner" of your family.
5. Talk to her (share your life plans, dreams, burdens, fears, weaknesses, and needs).
6. Carefully listen to her (Note: Listen to what she says and what she means by what she says).
7. Do acts of kindness to show her that she has great worth to you.
8. Praise her in sincerity (Prov. 31:28)
 - Thank her
 - Tell her what is good about her
9. Give tokens of affection (Example: notes, gifts, flowers)
10. Don't be a passive male. Be involved in your family.
 - *Love is giving, not getting!