

Road to Emmaus

Biblical Counseling Center

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As a wife seeks to glorify God, there are three commands that describe a wife's role in marriage. She is to be _____, be a _____ and _____.

Eph. 5:22-24; 1 Pet. 3:1-6

Submission

- The history of mankind's response to submission
 - Started with _____ (Isa. 14:13)
 - Continued in the _____ (Gen. 3:5)
 - Extended to all _____ (Isa. 53:6; Rom. 3:10-18)
 - Intensified in the _____ (2 Tim.3:1, 2; 2 Pet. 2:19; 1 Pet. 2:21-23)
 - As a result, submission is misrepresented and misunderstood (Jn. 8:34; Rom. 6:16; 1 Cor. 7:21-23)
- Wrong ideas about submission
 - That the wife is _____ (Phil. 2:5-9; 1 Pet. 3:7; Gal. 3:28)
 - That the husband is _____ (Rom. 13:1; 1 Pet. 2:13-23)
 - That the wife cannot _____ and cannot _____ Eph. 4:15, 16, 25; 2 Cor. 5:10)
 - That the wife has no _____ (1 Pet. 3:1, 2)
 - Manipulation is _____ – Rebekah (Gen. 27)

WIFE'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE*

- **Biblical teachings** about submission
 - General truth
 - A military term to _____ (an act of the will)
"arrange yourself under" (1 Pet. 5:5, 6)
 - A way of life for _____ believers
(1 Pet. 2:13-23; Eph. 5:21)
 - An _____ toward God
(Rom. 13:1-2; Eph. 5:22)
 - A proof of the wife's _____
(Jn. 14:15, 31; 1 Jn. 5:3)
 - Specifically to the wife
 - A way to be truly _____ (1 Pet. 3:1-6)
 - A picture of the _____ obeying Christ (Eph. 5:22-24; 1 Pet. 2:21-23; 3:1)
 - Limited only by _____ mandate, not personal preference
 - God never gives all of his authority to any human leadership (Acts 4:19; 5:29; 1 Pet. 3:6)
 - Therefore, a husband has **no authority to ask his wife to sin**
- A perfect picture of submission demonstrated by _____ (Phil 2:5-9; 1 Pet. 2:21-23) The wife must choose between:
 - Being like _____ or like Satan
 - Being _____ or disobedient
 - _____ or not growing
 - A godly lifestyle is the _____ –Hannah (1 Sam. 1-3); Eunice & Lois (2 Tim. 1:5)

Fitting Helper – Gen. 2:18

- The meaning of the term
 - "Fitting helper" = _____, complementing, corresponding to, _____, adapted to meet needs (she makes up what is lacking)
 - Used 14 x to describe God being my help (Ps. 27:9; 30:10; 40:17; 63:7; 70:5)
 - Therefore, this is not a _____ term nor is a wife a "second class" person.
 - God's instruction is for wives to assist their husbands in his work before the Lord and men.

WIFE'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE*

- No one can complete and contribute as the wife can
 - _____ – husband's best friend
 - _____ – must be very careful not to satisfy emotional desires any place but with the wife
 - _____ – no one else can have sex with him without guilt (1 Cor. 7:1-5)
 - _____ – her relationship is not to hinder his spiritual life, but to increase it
 - _____ – she has a great influence on the children – the parents work as a team
 - _____ – (Pr. 31:10 ff, 28) she adds color and depth in the home
 - _____ – she is the husband's best source of counsel
 - _____ – she is a vital part of his life and ministry

Practical Ways to Be Your Husband's Helper

1. **Pray faithfully**

When you pray for your husband, the Holy Spirit softens your heart and his heart, and you learn to trust God with your life and marriage.

2. **Grow personally**

Time with Jesus and the Bible, studying and repenting are essential to honoring your husband.

3. **Encourage regularly**

As you encourage him, you'll begin to understand additional ways you can be thankful for him.

4. **Inquire daily**

Don't just ask what he did during the day. Rather, ask how he is doing so you can find ways to serve him if he is stressed and celebrate with him when he is excited.

5. **Pursue intimately**

When you work on the friendship, the intimacy becomes more mutually enjoyable, so be willing to step up and pursue him.

6. **Play frequently**

Intentionally have fun as a marriage that is all work and no play, will feel like a business partnership instead of a loving partnership.

7. **Listen attentively**

Women love to talk, therefore, it is vitally important to learn to listen so you can get to know your husband better.

8. **Speak respectfully**

Make sure your tone does not reflect bitterness or unrighteous anger. His ability to lead will suffer if you are disrespectful...will flourish as you act as his biggest cheerleader.

WIFE'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE*

Reverence/Respect - Ephesians 5:33, 1 Peter 3:2

- Meaning of the terms - "reverence" = respects, regards, notices, honors, prefers, venerates, esteems, praises, admires exceedingly
- The wife should: reverence/respect him, don't try to change him
 - A wife is not her husband's personalized _____.
- The wife should reverence /respect her husband by:
 - Expressing _____
 - Being _____ despite circumstances
 - Choosing to be _____ in spite of emotions
 - _____ him when he does well
 - _____ him when he fails
- Results of **not** reverencing: resentment, bitterness, tension, destruction of love, discouragement, depression, hindering God's work through you
- Important things a wife must remember:

Willing self sacrifice for the good of another that does not require (nor demand) reciprocation or that the other person being loved is deserving.
Paul David Tripp, What Did You Expect, Crossways, Chapter 12

- God has a _____ and God's plan _____
- _____ him as he is (1 Jn. 4:11)
- Remember that she _____ him
- Deal with her own log _____ (Matt. 7:3-5)
- Give her _____ to God (Phil. 2:3-9)
- Communicate _____ and in _____ (Eph. 4:25-32)

As a wife seeks to glorify God, three commands will describe her role in marriage. She is to be submissive, she is to be a fitting helper, and she is to show reverence/respect.