

Woman's Role in Marriage

Genesis 2:18 – 22 Wives were created to help their husbands.

In the beginning God made them man and woman. It is not good for a man to be alone so He created woman. The woman was created out of Adam to be his helpmeet. She is to be his companion, helping him accomplish what God has put in him to do.

You are a gift to your husband – Prov 18:22, 19:14 God gave you to your husband as a gift. Gifts are meant to bless the receiver.

Genesis 2:24 Husband and wife become a new family unit

Notice when a couple gets married they are to create a new family and to put that relationship/family over the family they came from. They are to leave their Mother and Father. This attitude is true for the married couple as it is for their children when they get married. Don't put your Mother/Father above your marriage and don't meddle in your children's marriage.

Genesis 3:16 After the fall God said the man would rule over the woman. Woman will long after, desire, crave her husband. This implies she will want him and what he wants. Ephesians 5:22-24 The man is to be the leader. How can he lead if there was no one to follow? Women were made to submit to their husband's leadership. This is a privileged role given to the woman. You should look at it like this and not as a burden.

Wives submit to your own husbands – Col 3:18 God has designed authority structures in every area of life. He has put authorities into place in the political sphere (governments), the social sphere (bosses and masters), the spiritual sphere (elders over the church), and the family sphere (parents over children and wife submit to husband.) This should not be a surprise to us. God is an orderly God. A home with multiple heads cannot function well. Neither can a home with no head.

Wives are to be to their husbands as the Church is to be to Christ – 1 Cor 11:3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. Eph 5:30-32 In the eyes of God you are one flesh just as Christians are one flesh with Jesus (He is the head, we are the body). Notice what it does NOT say. It does not say the man is the head of the household – he is head of the wife.

Submit as to the Lord – Paul mentions the level that wives are to submit to their husbands. It is a very high bar. They are to obey their husbands as if it was the Lord Himself directing them. God asks us to submit to Him with a good attitude and without complaining. He wants wives to treat their husbands the same way. Submission is not manipulating, arguing, complaining, or nagging. Wives who truly seek to honor God will submit graciously and with a sweet spirit.

Submission is something YOU do. No one can force you to submit (that's coercion).

At the same time submission does not mean that the wives cannot share their opinions with their husbands or that husbands need not consider their wives. Women are equal to men in the eyes of God. Genesis 1:27, Gal 3:28 Husbands and wives are to submit to one another Eph 5:21 as much as possible.

Wives have a powerful influence over their husbands to either pull them toward the One True God or push them away. Examples, Solomon 1 Kings 11:4, Ahab and Jezebel 1 Kings 21:25, Timothy's mother and grandmother 2 Tim 1:5.

Respect your husband Eph 5:33 – You should respect and honor your husband in private and in public. 1 Peter 3:6 Sarah called Abraham “Lord”, showing she honored him. You should do everything you can to make him look good and not magnify his mistakes. The opposite of respect is disrespect. Putting your husband down or pointing out his mistakes to others is disrespectful. Your husband should be able to trust you. Don’t confide in anyone else about issues in your marriage without FIRST trying to resolve them with him. Don’t discuss issues in your marriage with a friend of the opposite sex as the enemy can use this to drive a wedge in your marriage.

Pray for your husband In 1 Tim 2:1-3 Paul tells us to pray for those in authority over us. In context he is talking about leaders but in practical application we can apply this to our husbands. We are to make prayers (a solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God) and supplications (a petition, seeking, urgently asking, entreating God on behalf of another) for them, with thanksgiving. I want to encourage you to thank God for your husband and for the opportunity to be his wife.

It is the woman who is the heart of the marriage (Prov 14:1). While the husband is the head of the wife (and therefore the marriage unit), it is the woman who is the heart of the marriage. It is by the wife’s own hand she either builds up or tears down her marriage (home).

You are not to deny your husband’s physical needs. 1 Cor 7:2-7 As a wife you are to put the needs of your husband above your own. Your husband has the “right” to your body (and you to his). Phil 2:3-4.

Keep your marriage vows (as much as it is up to you) 1 Cor 7:10-11a, 13-16

You are not to be;

Quarrelsome and nagging Prov 21:19, 27:15-16

Shameful Prov 12:4b

Foolish (non-virtuous, immoral) Prov 14:1b

You are to be;

A bringer of good to your husband Proverbs 31:11-12

Older women should be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. They should urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God Titus 2:3-5

Women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything I Tim 3:11

Conclusion

God has called us to be our husband’s helper, to bless him, to make a new family unit with him, to submit to his leadership, to influence him for the good, to respect and honor him at all times, to pray for him, to hold the marriage together and to take care of his physical needs. What a privilege it is to be a wife.