

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

This is obviously addressed to the wife. We looked at being born into total depravity, and we also looked at the fact that we are highly influenced by this world system. These influences come from different areas and are mostly directed towards the women. Popular sayings are put on bill boards, bumper stickers, and today all over the sinnernet. So we have women who are loud and boisterous pushing their agenda and you can see hatred all over them. Their hatred is first of all towards God, then it is towards men, and then towards all who do not agree with them.

This influence is all around and we see the effects of this in the home. Women are encouraged to be successful in this world. The view of success is climbing a corporate ladder and striving with the man for positions at the office or on the job site. There is also a forcible influence to please yourself. It doesn't help when you have heretics writing books and broadcasting about your best life now, destined to reign, and enjoying everyday life. These claim to be Christian authors when in fact they are wolves in sheep clothing. We are to examine everything and everyone by the Word of God.

When you mix these influences with the depraved nature you get a tremendous pull and push to get away from the Word of God. This pull and push is to get away from the Word of God because this pull and push is anti-biblical. The Biblical wife is anti-cultural. Society looks down on a wife who is Biblical. The result is we end up with women leaving the home for money and success to fulfill their own desires. A key component of the home is missing. It's like running a motor with no motor oil in it. It will run for a little while, it will get rougher and will put off sounds and smells that let us know that something is wrong, then it will shut down, lock up, it is now destroyed.

I know people say they can send the kids off to school and work and still get home at night and cook supper and run the community taxi to the ball games etc...

How many of you wives are worn down from all this running? Now we have sports all year round and if your kid plays all these sports you never get a break. Where does the time go? You are toting your kids all around, but who is teaching your kids? The one who is teaching your kids is influencing them the most.

You are so worn out that your husband gets put on the back burner and God isn't even on the stove. You may still go to church, but it is usually just to keep face. Most don't even go to church as a family. The babies go to the nursery, the youth group, then to college. They are not a part of the church family.

So here is the question, what is a Biblical wife? To answer this question we must look to the Bible. There are many opinions as to what a Biblical wife is, but there is only one answer, it is from the Bible. What kind of wife-mother do you want to be?

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.
submit- to submit oneself, to be subject, to be obedient.

To place in order.

This is a command to do something in the future and involves continuous and repeated action; it usually carries with it the implication of stopping an action that has been taking place.

So here it would be stop not submitting and start submitting and continue to submit. Place yourself in order. This takes us back to the fall which we looked at last night. The woman's desire is to get out of order; this is natural, part of the depraved nature.

Ladies, you have a choice to make. You are not a spiritual robot; you have to make a decision everyday whether you will obey God's Word or rebel against it. To obey means you must crucify your flesh.

Notice it doesn't say husbands, make your wives submit, but rather, wives, submit yourselves.
verse 22- unto your own husbands,

Look at verse 24- Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

Titus 2:1-5

verse 3- behavior as becometh holiness- this means to be sacred and spiritual; not secular and not profane.

verse 5- keepers at home- a stay-at-home, domestically inclined (a "good housekeeper"): - (a guard; be "ware").

verse 5-obedient to their own husbands: this word obedient is the same as submit in Ephesians 5:22.

verse 5- that the word of God be not blasphemed.

This is of the highest motivation because it is in the Scriptures. This motivation is from God for women to honour the Word of God. God has given the woman a position to be praised in, but as a result of our depraved nature she doesn't want this position of the highest honour with God and would rather have the praises of men.

And as Jesus told the pharisees, you have your reward here on earth, but not in heaven.

How many of you do not like this, and then ask yourself why? Be honest. Why don't you want to be obedient to your own husbands and why don't you want to be keeper at home?

Is it because you "feel" insufficient, worthless, or that you "feel" the need to better yourself?

God views success by our obedience to His Word. Let's look at how important it is for a wife to be Biblical, and when she is Biblical, she is elevated, and she is priceless.

Proverbs 31

Let's start in verse 10.

virtuous- strength, valor, and influence.

A virtuous woman is strong, full of valor, and of a heavy influence. This is her character.

valor- strength of mind in regard to danger; that quality which enables a man to encounter danger with firmness; personal bravery; courage; intrepidity; prowess.

This makes her very valuable. This makes her needed, wanted, and desired. This makes her worthy to be searched for, for when you find her you have found a priceless treasure.

verse 10- for her price is far above rubies.

A good word to put here would be priceless. When you have something that is priceless, it is never for sale and you guard it with prayer, power, and praise.

Proverbs 18:22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

Verses 11-12-

trust- to trust, be confident. It expresses the feeling of safety and security and is felt when someone can rely on someone or something else.

The husband has peace of mind. This allows him to go to work and focus on providing for his home without having to worry about his wife spending all their money or her having an affair. Since he trusts her so much, with their family and their finances, she has freedom to keep the home.

verses 13-14-

verse 13- she isn't lazy. She searches for the best for her family and she looks for the best deals. She is frugal.

She is economical in the use or appropriation of money, goods or provisions of any kind; money or of any thing else which is to be used or consumed; sparing; not profuse, prodigal or lavish.

She is economical not only in dealing with money and goods, but also with her time. She waste nothing, especially not her time. This means she is not wasting time on the sinnernet or watching meaningless movies or doing crossword puzzles.

verse 13- she worketh- to make, to accomplish, to complete. This conveys the central notion of performing an activity with a distinct purpose, a moral obligation, or a goal in view.

She is not going through her day shooting from the hip. Each day is planned out in advance and is coordinated in such a way also. Things may happen to throw cogs in the wheel, but because she is a virtuous woman she is able to adjust without panic, therefore the family is not tossed to and fro.

This means the children are growing up in a stable and secure home. This means when the husband comes home from work the clothes and the dishes aren't piled up and the kids haven't destroyed the house and the wife isn't sitting on the couch with her lips pouched out.

The well-being of her family is her 2nd priority therefore she is focused on doing for them. She is not selfish and puts her needs last.

Verse 14- as a ship travels with a distinct purpose, she also provides for her home with a distinct purpose and a well-planned out course.

Verse 15 speaks volumes about her virtue.

Let's take verse 15 and 18 together. Her candle goeth not out by night. These candles would hold enough oil to burn for 5 or 6 hours. They would fill it up with oil before they went to bed, but notice that her candle goeth not out by night. This means she would be up before the candle burned out of oil. She didn't get up and fill the lamp up and get back in the bed: look at verse 15- and giveth meat to her household.

She begins to prepare sustenance for her household early.

verse 15- portion- task.

She isn't doing all the work, but she delegates it out to others. By the time her husband gets up from prayer the food is ready, he eats and goes to work, happy. He hates to leave and can't wait to get back.

This wife isn't doing this as a slave, but because she loves her husband and her family. She is putting the needs of others before her own. She is willing to sacrifice herself to provide for those of her household. Sounds like Christ doesn't it?

Verse 16- she is profitable and has a good business mind and because she is virtuous her husband has given her the authority to make these kind of decisions.

verse 17- she has stability and is making wise investments in her family for the future.

verse 18- she sees and tastes the fruit of her work.

Verse 19- she isn't lazy and takes part in the work.

verse 20- she helps those who are truly in need.

verse 21- she isn't concerned with the weather because she knows her family is well taken care of. They will not suffer because of the cold.

verse 22- her home is not plain and boring, it is a desired place to be. The clothing she has for her and her family is the best. Remember that she didn't spend a fortune on it but bought the best at the best price.

When others saw her family they didn't think they were rich, but they understood there was someone with wisdom and a drive taking care of that family.

verse 23- Everyone knows who her husband is and everyone knows who she is. She isn't seeking her own glory, but because of her love towards God and her family she is exalted.

verse 24- again, she works from the home to help provide for the home.

verse 25- she shall rejoice in time to come- verse 28.

verse 26- she isn't cussing or throwing a fit, she isn't an open complainer, when she speaks others listen. Her words sooth's and comforts and always gives wisdom.

verse 27- bread of idleness- moldy bread with no sustenance.

verse 29- She is exalted.

Verse 30- this lady is praised.

verse 31- If you were given the fruit of your hands, what would you get? Only certain men sat in the gate, which means her husband sat there and one day her sons would sit there. The investments she made in her families would praise her for generations to come. She would be an exalted woman.

What a wife. What a need.

This woman wasn't known for climbing the corporate ladder, but she was praised for loving and taking care of her family.

A Biblical wife is not boring, but is very exciting and challenging, and very rewarding.

Ladies it is worth it. How sad is it to look back at your life and see the plaques all around you, covered with dust. Not speaking to you, not checking on you, not providing for you when you are old, and not loving you back. You loved those accomplishments, but they don't love you back. You can hold and hug them, but they don't hold and hug you back.

Invest in your family. Submit to your husband, be a Biblical wife.

Most of all be thankful you are caught by His grace. To God be the glory.