

GOD'S DESIGN FOR THE WIFE

Introduction:

When God created Adam and put him in the Garden of Eden to care for it, he made a statement that is very important when it comes to the role of the wife in marriage. That statement is found in Genesis 2:18:

Genesis 2:18 NLT

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."

He then proceeded to create the animals and let Adam name them but still there was not a helper just right for Adam. So, God did the following:

Genesis 2:21 NLT

So, the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening.

Genesis 2:22 NLT

Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

The helper God made that was just right for the man was the woman.

Genesis 2:23 NLT

"At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'"

Genesis 2:24 NLT

This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

When God said he wanted a "helper just right" for Adam, what did he mean? The Hebrew word translated here "just right" or "suitable" in the King James version literally means "equal and adequate to himself." The word "helper" means "one who helps." God had given Adam responsibilities to tend the garden, care for the animals and oversee the creation God had completed. However, God pointed out that Adam needed someone to help him in these responsibilities. Someone who was equal and adequate to himself. Someone like him but different in just the right way. Someone who could fill in the gaps where Adam was lacking and vice versa. The animals did not fit that purpose. That someone was Eve. Then God said because of the need Adam and Eve had for each other, it was important that they be joined together as one. So, God instituted marriage for all those that would follow, as a way of bringing man and woman together as one when he said, "This explains (the need man and woman have for each

other) **why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.**" At that moment God indicated for all mankind the role that women would play in his creation. To be the equal partner beside man in caring for the world God had made. The man could not do it without the woman. He needed a helper. As a result, the institution of marriage was born.

The role of the wife in marriage is equally important as the role of the husband because, according to God, they need each other to fulfill God's plan for their lives.

Now let's look at the God given role of the wife as described in the Bible. We will be looking at four places in the Bible that address the role of the wife. Ephesians 5, Titus 2, 1 Peter 3 and Proverbs 31. As a reminder, the fulfillment of the God given role of the woman, like the man, is predicated on the woman being the person God teaches she should be. We discussed this in the lesson on "Roles and Responsibilities in Marriage" so we will not rehash that at this time. So, assuming the woman is a believer and wants to be the wife God intends for her to be, and likewise the husband is the same, the following describes the role of the wife.

We will start in Ephesians 5:21-22:

Ephesians 5:21 NLT

And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:22 NLT

For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord.

As with the husband, God points out that submission is the key to the marriage relationship. Submission to God first and then submission to each other. In Ephesians 5:22 God tells us what submission looks like for the woman. When God created Eve, he was creating a "HELPER" for Adam. In one word this describes the main role of the woman, to help. This is how it looks.

1. Help your husband lead.

When God created Eve, he pointed out that it was not good for the man to be alone. God has given the man responsibilities in the home, but he cannot do it alone. He needs the wife. He cannot lead properly without her. He needs her.

1Corinthians 11:11 NLT

But among the Lord's people, women are not independent of men, and men are not independent of women.

However, God gave man the responsibility to lead the home and God will hold the man accountable.

1Corinthians 11:3 NLT

But there is one thing I want you to know: The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

So, how do you help him lead?

LOVE YOUR HUSBAND – Jesus loved us so much he died for us and wants what is best for us. That is the way we should love each other and the way to love your husband.

Titus 2:4 NLT

These older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children,

One way you can show that love is to accept his leadership. This allows him to do what God has called him to do. Trust God to take care of him when he gets out of line. This doesn't mean you don't voice your opinion as we will see in just a minute.

1Peter 3:1-2 NLT

In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over (vs. 2) by observing your pure and reverent lives.

1Peter 3:5 NLT

This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands.

LIVE WISELY - Live your life by the truth of the Bible. Titus describes a life lived wisely like this: be pure, work in your home, do good, be submissive or allow your husband to lead.

Titus 2:4 NLT

These older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children,

Titus 2:5 NLT

to live wisely and be pure, to work in their homes, to do good, and to be submissive to their husbands. Then they will not bring shame on the word of God.

When you live this way, Proverbs 31 lets you know the impact you will have on your husband and your home. Your husband can trust you and you actually make him a better man because of who you are. Every man needs this.

Proverbs 31:10 NLT

Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is more precious than rubies.

Proverbs 31:11 NLT

Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life.

Proverbs 31:12 NLT

She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

LET YOUR WORDS BE WISE - Share your wisdom with your husband. Your opinion matters. God has directed your life through the experiences and learning opportunities you have been through for a reason. That is why God put you and your husband together. You have different perspectives which is needed in the operation of the home. Your husband needs your wisdom to be able to make wise decisions for your home. Give your instruction with kindness. A man who follows God will value what his wife has to say, and you will learn to make decisions together.

Proverbs 31:26 NLT

When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness.

LAZINESS IS NOT GOOD! – Marriage is work. Life is work. Both husband and wife must do their part in the work of the family. You can help your husband lead by doing your part in the work of the family, whatever that looks like for your home.

Proverbs 31:15 NLT

She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her household and plan the day's work for her servant girls.

Proverbs 31:16 NLT

She goes to inspect a field and buys it; with her earnings she plants a vineyard.

Proverbs 31:17 NLT

She is energetic and strong, a hard worker.

Proverbs 31:27 NLT

She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness.

2. Help your husband by making your house a home.

Making a house a home isn't about the money. It isn't about the decorations, pictures, or furniture, it's about the atmosphere of the house you live in. Is it a home or just a place where you live? What makes the difference?

- Husband and wife doing their part for the family and appreciating each other for it.

You show your husband you appreciate him when you accept his authority and better his life, as we have already seen. The husband and children will show you appreciation by praising you for being the woman God made you to be.

Proverbs 31:27 NLT

She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness.

Proverbs 31:28 NLT

Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her:

- Loving each other and your children.

We have already seen multiple times the importance of loving each other and being kind to one another the way Jesus loves us. This is what keeps the home together.

Titus 2:4 NLT

These older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children,

Ephesians 4:2 NLT

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

Ephesians 4:3 NLT

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

- Keeping the house in order, clean, organized, void of chaos and filled with peace.

These are things that make a house a home. In the Bible God actually gives oversight of this to the woman as the keeper of the home.

Titus 2:5 NLT

to live wisely and be pure, to work in their homes, to do good, and to be submissive to their husbands. Then they will not bring shame on the word of God.

In Titus 2:5 when the Bible describes the wife as one who “works in their homes,” the phrase means to be a keeper of the home. The domestic CEO. The one responsible for making sure the house is a home. We all may have heard the saying, “**When mom is not happy, nobody is happy.**” Or the saying, “**Happy Wife, Happy Life!**” This is true. God designed the woman for this duty, and she is the best at it. For example, when the love is lacking, it is the wife who is best at rekindling it. When the husband is getting a little lazy, a wise wife will lovingly encourage him to do his part. Her example of hard work serves as the motivator for the husband to push on. After all, she works hard all day as does the husband. When the house gets in disarray and turmoil is beginning to take place, it is the godly wife that has the ability to calm things down and restore

peace to the home. All of this because God designed her to be keeper of the home. However, this does not mean that she is to only work in the home. Proverbs 31 clearly indicates the virtuous woman did much work outside the four walls of her home to help make her house a home.

3. Help your husband by living for and trusting God.

Some may ask, what if my husband is not living for God and fulfilling his role in the home? That is where this aspect of your role comes in. Of course, it is much easier to live this way when your husband is living this way as well. Listen to what God says in 1 Peter 3:

1Peter 3:1-2 NLT

In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over (vs. 2) by observing your pure and reverent lives.

When you live for God and trust him with your life, God will work on your husband, so you don't have to. Trust God to change your husband. So, how do you do this? Let's read on in 1 Peter 3.

1. It is not your outward appearance that God uses to change your husband.

1Peter 3:3 NLT

Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes.

2. It is your inner beauty that God uses. The person you are in your heart. This includes:
 - a. **A gentle and quiet spirit** – this refers to one who is humble with no thought for themselves. Not selfish. A wife who trusts that God is in control rather than thinking they must be in control. They know that God will take care of them. A wife who is quiet and peaceful in the midst of the storm. Not one trying to start a war or argument.

1Peter 3:4 NLT

You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.

- b. **Complete trust in God to do what you cannot do.** – We can only control our actions, thoughts, attitudes, and responses. We cannot control those things in our mate nor does God expect us to. However, God controls everything and He will take care of the corrections that need to be made.

1Peter 3:5a NLT

This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They trusted God

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- c. **Respecting your husband, even when it is hard.** Just like the leaders of our land. We may not agree with what they do, and they will not always do the right thing, but the Bible teaches us to respect the position of authority given to them by God. (see Romans 13:1-7). That is the same principle for wives. You do not have to agree with what your husband is doing but respect the position of authority God has assigned to the husband and let God take care of him.

1Peter 3:5 NLT

This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands.

- d. **Do what is right regardless of what your husband does.** – while respecting your husband's position of authority, God still admonishes us to do what is right regardless of what your husband does.

1Peter 3:6 NLT

For instance, Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, and called him her master. You are her daughters when you do what is right without fear of what your husbands might do.

In conclusion I think you can see the powerful and important position the wife plays in the marriage relationship. Helping your husband is not some menial task that carries little to no importance. On the contrary, the fulfillment of the role of the wife is critical to the success of the husband fulfilling his role in the home and vice versa.

Bottom line: The husband is nothing without his wife and the wife is nothing without the husband. We need each other. Marriage is not a competition with each other or a power struggle against each other. It is a God-given partnership designed to make both husband and wife better and create a little heaven on earth that God calls the Home! May God bless your home as you fulfill your God-given role as Husband and wife.

Next time we will talk about the role of the parents in the home.