

KEY VERSES

Genesis 2:18 - *Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."*

Ephesians 5:22-24 - *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. v.23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. v.24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.*

"WIFE" DEFINED

- The word "wife" literally means a _____.
- A virtuous wife is a woman of strength, industrious and creative in the ways she provides for the needs of her family.
- She is able to weave together the complexities of life inside and outside of the home for the good of the family.
- Proverbs 31 - The Virtuous Wife

Proverbs 31:11-13 NLT - *Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life. v.12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. v.13 She finds wool and flax and busily spins it.*

v. 21 - *She has no fear of winter for her household, for everyone has warm clothes.*

v. 25-28 - *She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future. v.26 When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness. v.27 She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness. v.28 Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her...*

NOTES

THE ROLE OF THE WIFE

1. The wife is a suitable _____.

Genesis 2:18 NIV - *The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

- The word "helper" is not a _____ term.
- The word "helper" is often used in scripture to describe _____.
- It is a compliment to share a title with God himself!

Psalm 33:20 ESV - *Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.*

Psalm 70:5 ESV - *But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!*

Psalm 115:9 ESV - *O Israel, trust in the Lord! He is their help and their shield.*

- If we are modeling ourselves as the helper after God himself, we should be a helper for our husband who shields him and protects him. Cover him and shield him in prayer.
- The word helper is also defined as an _____.

1 Peter 3:7 NLT - *In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are (meaning physically), but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.*

2. The wife is a _____.

Ephesians 5:22 - *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*

1 Peter 3:1-6 NAS - *In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, v.2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. v.3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. v.4 Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. v.5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, v.6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.*

- There is a real beauty in a woman that comes from inside her.
- Our inner beauty shines even more than our outward appearance. This beauty never fades!

UNDERSTANDING SUBMISSION (WHAT IT IS NOT)

1. **Submission is not _____ with everything the husband says.**

- Submission does not mean that your husband's word is absolute and everything he says is correct.

2. **Submission is not _____ every effort to change your husband.**

- We should be helping one another!

3. **Submission is not _____ the will of Christ for the will of a husband.**

- As Christian wives we are disciples of Christ first, and a helpmate to our husbands second.

4. **Submission does not mean putting the husband in the place of _____.**

- As Christian wives, as much as we love our husbands, we can't compromise our faith.

5. **Submission is not the wife getting all her personal and spiritual _____ met by her husband.**

- We have to have our own strength that comes from a deep meaningful relationship with Christ.

6. **Submission is not living in _____.**

1 Peter 3:6 NIV - ...like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

- She honored him and obeyed him, but she never was intimidated and never operated out of fear.

SEVEN ELEMENTS OF SUBMISSION (WHAT IT IS)

NOTES

1. Submission is an _____ more than an action.

- A submissive attitude says, "It is a delight for you to take the initiative in our family. I am glad when you take responsibility for things and lead with love. I don't flourish when you are passive and I have to make sure the family works and I have to make all the decision."

2. Submission is _____.

- Don't deflate, discourage, or dishonor your husband for any reason. Encourage him!

3. Submission is _____.

- Part of cooperation is forgiveness. Submission is _____.
- Use what you have learned about listening to the Spirit to help you discern the needs of your husband.

5. Submission is being romantically _____.

1 Corinthians 7:3, 4 - *The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. v.4 The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife.*

- A physical connection in marriage is an important part of intimacy and having a thriving marriage that is balanced.

6. Submission is _____.

Ephesians 5:33 NIV - *...the husband must love the wife as himself and the wife must respect her husband.*

7. Submission is a _____.

- As Godly women, we put our hope and trust in the Lord; that when we are obedient, God is going to see us through.

A WORD TO HUSBANDS

NOTES

1 Peter 3:7 NIV - *Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner...*

- Submission is not _____ for wives.
- We have to submit to one another.
- Love us the way God intended: prefer us over every other relationship; love us with tenderness; honor us and value us; be considerate of our needs; love us as you love yourselves and as Christ loved the Church.

Let's recommit to one another. Let's come into alignment under God's will for our marriage. Cooperate with one another and come to a place of obedience so your marriage brings glory to God.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What impacted you most in this lesson about the role of the wife? Ladies, how do you see yourself as the weaver in your household?
2. Ladies, do you struggle with words like “submissive” and “helper” as they describe the role of a wife, or do you easily embrace them? Men, how can you help your wife more fully embrace God’s design for her role?
3. If there are single (or single again) men or women in your group, what is your experience and/or example you have been given to follow in the wife’s role in marriage? (Example: What was the dynamic between your parents and how has that influenced your perspective?)
4. In the Seven Elements of Submission, do any stick out to you more than others?
5. Talk about love and respect. How do the two work in your marriage?
6. Men, in the word to husbands section, what is one thing you do well in loving your wife like God intended? What is one area you can improve?