

Lesson 8

Teacher's Manual

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

READ & MEDITATE ON: Ephesians 5:22-6:4

MEMORIZE: Colossians 3:18-21

INTRODUCTION

The Word of God has a great deal to say about the home and the relationship of family members. Success in your personal walk with God will depend in great measure upon establishing scriptural relationships with the other members of your family. For this reason the enemy will seek to cause confusion and strife in the house of a new Christian to discourage and bring him to failure. However, the Word of God has clear and powerful teaching which can help us to build solid, spiritual lives and homes.

God has structured the family along clear-cut lines of authority and responsibility. It is vital to recognize this structure of Divine Order at the beginning of your Christian life so that you may begin to practice these principles immediately. God has made the well-being and happiness of the family absolutely dependent upon the observance of His divinely appointed plan.

I. DIVINE ORDER FOR THE FAMILY

Since you are now a Christian, His laws will not be hard for you to keep, because you love Him. "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments..." (I John 5:3). If your mate is not a Christian, you must pay even more special attention to God's behavior laws, for if you faithfully do what He asks, there is the promise of the Word that your spouse may also give their life to God. It may be difficult to apply these laws if you have not done so before, and have acted wrongly for a long time. But if you are willing, God will give you all the strength that is needed. We will see that what God asks of us is only for the highest good and happiness of ourselves and our families.

Divine Order is an order of authority and responsibility which is spelled out in the Bible. The principles of Divine Order are outlined here and should be studied carefully.

II. THE WIFE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO HER HUSBAND

Ephesians 5:22-24,33

King James Version

22. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.
23. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.
24. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.
33. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

The Amplified Bible

22. Wives, be subject--be submissive and adapt yourselves--to your own husbands as (a service) to the Lord.
23. For the husband is head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, Himself the Saviour of (His) body.
24. As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands.
33. However, let each man of you (without exception) love his wife as (being in a sense) his very own self: and let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband--that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly.

I Peter 3:1-6

King James Version

1. Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

The Amplified Bible

1. In like manner you married women, be submissive to your own husbands--subordinate yourselves as being secondary to and dependent on them, and adapt yourselves to them. So that even if any do not obey the Word (of God), they may be won over not by discussion but by the (godly) lives of their wives,

A. Submission

Submission is one of the most beautiful and powerful concepts in the New Testament. To be submissive means to yield humble and intelligent obedience to an ordained power or authority. The example Paul gives is that of the Church being submissive to the rule of Christ. Far from being degrading, this is the Church's glory! God did not give this law of wives being submissive to their husbands because He has a grudge against women. On the contrary, He established this order for the protection of women and the harmony of the home. God has given wives the opportunity to choose freely the submissive role, and He honors not those who cling to their "rights," but those who choose freely to obey God and their husband.

A wife's primary responsibility is to give of herself, her time, and her energy to her husband, children, and home. This does not mean that women cannot have responsible positions of leadership and still be in God's plan. Indeed, God seems to have peculiar honors for women: they were the last to linger at the cross, the first to come to the tomb. It was to a woman, Mary Magdalene, that Jesus first appeared after His resurrection. The Old Testament tells of Miriam, who was instrumental in saving Moses' life while he was a baby; Deborah, who gave leadership to the Israelites as prophetess and judge; Esther, the courageous queen who saved her people from death. The New Testament, too, speaks of prophetesses, such as Anna (a widow) and the (unmarried) daughters of Phillip. Lydia, one of the early converts under Paul's ministry, was a businesswoman. But she who is "blessed among women," the most honored woman of all time...the mother of our Lord...was a humble woman who found fulfillment as a wife and mother in the home where God had set her.

Wives, rejoice in your husband's authority over you! Be subject to him in all things. It is your special privilege to move under the protection of his authority. It is within this pattern of Divine Order that the Lord will meet you and bless you and make you a blessing to your husband, your children, your church, and your community.

Another scriptural reason for the wife to submit herself to her husband is "because of the angels."

I Corinthians 11:10

King James Version

10. For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.

The Amplified Bible

10. Therefore she should (be subject to his authority and should) have a covering on her head (as a token, a symbol, of her submission) to authority, (that she may show reverence as do) the angels and not displease them.

III. THE HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITY TO HIS WIFE

Ephesians 5:25-33

King James Version

25. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;
26. That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
27. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.
28. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.
29. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church.
30. For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.
31. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.
32. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.
33. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

The Amplified Bible

25. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her,
26. So that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word.
27. That He might present the church to Himself in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such things-- that she might be holy and faultless.
28. Even so husbands should love their wives as (being in a sense) their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself.
29. For no man ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and carefully protects and cherishes it, as Christ does the church,
30. Because we are members (parts) of His body.
31. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:24).
32. This mystery is very great, but I speak concerning (the relation of) Christ and the church.
33. However, let each man of you (without exception) love his wife as (being in a sense) his very own self;...

authority vested in a husband and father is modeled upon Christ. Christ's authority was rooted in the sacrifice of Himself. Only when Calvary was behind Him did He come to His disciples and say, "All power is given unto me in heaven and earth" (Matthew 28:18). The authority of Christ, and therefore the authority of a husband and father, is not a human, "fleshly" authority. It is not one person lording it over others. It is a divine and spiritual authority which is rooted in the sacrifice of one's self.

B. Honor

In I Peter, chapter 3, verse 7, the word "honor" is the translation of the same Greek word in I Peter 1:19 where it reads "precious," "...the precious blood of Christ..." Christian husbands are to deem the wives which God has given them precious, and are to treat them with honor. They should keep a special place of honor in their hearts for their wives, and should treat them with special courtesy, respect, and kindness. Proverbs 31:10 tells us the worth of a good wife, "...her price is far above rubies," and goes on to say that her husband "...praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all" (verses 28-29).

The scripture warns that when a husband does not treat his wife tenderly and honor her as a joint-heir of the grace of life, his prayers will be hindered. This emphasizes God's requirement that a husband show proper consideration and respect for the feelings and dignity of his wife. In regard to honorable treatment of wives, Colossians 3:19 commands husbands to, "...be not bitter against them." How often has God closed His heart to a man's prayer because that same man had injured the spirit of his wife and closed his heart to her? Spiritual victory in our walk with God demands that personal relationships with our own family members be proper. The blessing of God depend upon it!

Study the relation of Christ to His church and you will discover the perfect marriage relationship. The wife gives up her own name and takes on her husband's. She merges her life with his. She recognizes him as her head and looks to him as her support, protector and guide. She devotes her whole life to his happiness, and to carry out Christ's will for her to love him. She naturally looks to her husband to protect her from injury, insult and want. She hangs her happiness on him, and expects that he will protect her, and he is bound to do it. Their reputation and interests become one. What affects her character or reputation affects his. The faithful husband loves, cherishes and honours his wife. He gives of his time, his labour and his talents to promote the interest of his bride. The faithful husband is jealous for his wife's good name. He feels deeply when her feelings or reputation are injured. Christ is the perfect picture of the faithful husband. His true church is the perfect pattern of the loving wife.

A. Children

A child's relationship to the Lord is in direct relation to the obedience which he gives to his parents. The Lord lives and works in and through the life of an obedient child. The child who knows exactly how far he can go is relieved of a heavy burden and therefore becomes a happy child. A child may test his parents' authority, to see how far he can go. He may feel quite unhappy in a particular situation where his own will is at odds with his parents. But deep down he wants to know that the parents' authority will stand firm, that he can depend upon it. A Holy Ghost filled youth or child may strain at parental authority, even rebel against it, but he will rebel even more--though often in disguised ways--against a lack of parental authority. When such a child persistently disobeys his parents, he experiences a deep discontent in his spirit, for his relationship with the Lord has been strained and grieved.

Please note Ephesians 6:1, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." So-called modern methods of child raising place a great deal of emphasis on a child's sense of right or wrong, of fairness and unfairness. Great burden is laid upon the parent to deal fairly with the child, to always give the "right" command; implying a child can and will and should rebel against a "wrong" command. That is why we take special note of the Bible's instructions here. This verse does not say, "Children obey your parents when they are right." It says: "...Obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." The child is not given the responsibility in scripture to weigh and evaluate the parents' decisions--obeying those which he thinks are right and rejecting those he does not agree with. The responsibility of decision in the scriptures rests with the parents. The child's sole responsibility is simply to obey. In this command of obedience given to children, there is no mention made of any exception. It is in the nature of a child to feel that in some decisions he is wiser than his parents, and that he may choose his own way against his parents' instructions. However, one act of disobedience can sow the seeds of hostility and rebellion and bring down upon him the eventual judgment of God. No sins in scripture are so damnable as disobedience and rebellion, and no virtues are so blessed as obedience and loyalty.

Someone may ask the question, "What if the parents command the child to do something wrong?" It is known that there are fathers and mothers who have led their children into sin. It is indeed an unfortunate situation when a child must choose between being led by his parents into known sin, and willful disobedience to his parents. There are other commandments to which the child also must submit. To overstep such commandments would no longer be "obedience in the Lord." A child who has reason to fear that he would be forced to make such a choice must lean heavily on the Lord. While he cannot knowingly and willfully commit an act of sin, neither can he allow a spirit of disobedience and rebellion in his heart. God has given the commandment to "honour" father

by God in order that he may use it, not in order to please himself. A Holy Ghost filled parent's authority comes from God. In order to be faithful to God he must discharge his duty and responsibility to his children.

What happens when parents make a wrong decision, or give poor instructions to their children? Whenever this occurs (and is recognized by the parent) it should be confessed and corrected. We should never hesitate to confess a genuine mistake and ask forgiveness of our children, fearing that this will undercut our authority. Our authority is not derived from ourselves, or from our flawless performance as parents--nor is it derived from our children's acceptance of that authority. It is derived, as does all true authority, from the one who stands behind us, backing up our authority. The authority of a military sergeant depends upon the captain who backs him up. The authority of the captain depends upon the major of the regiment, and so on. The authority of parents depends upon God who has set them as authorities over their children. Therefore, when a parent makes a mistake, the question is not, "How will the child react if I admit this?" The question is rather, "What will God think if I try to hide this and pretend it was right?" God honors honest and open repentance--in child or parent. The fear that you will lose status and authority with your child by confessing a sin is the devil's lie. On the contrary, your authority is actually confirmed and strengthened when you have the courage to be as honest and demanding of yourself as you want the child to be with himself. For then you are the kind of authority whom God can back up!

We could summarize scriptural directives to parents in these three words: proclaim, pray and protect. These are some responsibilities Christian parents must accept in order to pattern their dealings with their children as God does with His children:

1. Proclaim

The concept of teaching parents, and especially teaching fathers, has been restored to current thinking in our churches today. No teaching is more explicit and clear in the Bible than that a father should (by precept and example) teach his children the way to serve God. Jewish fathers of the Old Testament were expressly commanded to be faithful in this matter.

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

3. Protect

Spiritual principalities and powers swarm about seeking to destroy the home. Paul distinctly said we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against these spiritual forces, (Ephesians 6:12). Satan is, "...the god of this world..." (II Corinthians 4:4), and his demons inhabit the atmosphere. In such conditions the sanctity of the home must be protected and preserved. It is the responsibility of parents to see that no defilement gain entrance into the home. Deuteronomy 11:21 likens the divinely-ordained home to "heaven on earth"--the only time this phrase is used in scripture. The haven of the home must be protected from every evil influence, however innocent-appearing it may be. The warning in scripture is clear--"Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house...for it is a cursed thing" (Deuteronomy 7:26). Unholy things in our homes give a clear signal and invitation for the activity of evil spirits. A new Christian should be careful to cleanse his house of everything which will give Satan a claim to his house. A genuine "home-cleansing" under the authority of the Name of Jesus and His blood can make a home a beautiful, sanctified house of worship! Parents, let us protect our homes and our children and give them the benefit of living in the only place called "heaven on earth"--the divinely ordained home!

A great deal of evil has come upon the home because individual members have lost the blessing and protection of divine order. The husband must come under the authority of Christ, the wife under the authority of her husband, and children under the authority of their parents. Satan knows the power of divine order and that is why he uses every wile to undermine and break down this pattern for the family. But you can set up your family in scriptural, divine order and experience the blessing of God's power and anointing continually on your home!

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No doubt this accounts, in large measure, for the preservation of the Jewish race and religion for thousands of years despite repeated attempts to destroy them. Bible teaching in the home is desperately needed today to undergird and strengthen the teaching and preaching by the pastor from the pulpit. What an impact it makes on children and youth to see the faithfulness of parents joining with the pastor in proclaiming the Word of God. Our homes need to be "learning-centers" to study and practice the principles of godly living outlined in the scriptures. While parents may be tempted to feel that this is totally the work of the ministry or Sunday School, the scriptures remain clear and pointed in this truth. Oh, what a blessing God has in store for the home where the father consistently reads from the Bible to his family and guides them into spiritual paths! There is no substitute that will as effectively mold young lives and influence them to follow God's laws.

2. Pray

The prayers of parents seem to have a special power with God in the courts of heaven. Job offered sacrifices early in the morning for each of his children. Satan testified that God had "...made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side..." (Job 1:10). When the destroying angel passed through the land of Egypt in the time of Moses, every home where the head of the household had put blood on the doorpost was spared. The divine command was "a lamb for an house." The father who protected his family with the blood of the lamb is a perfect and beautiful type of the New Testament father who keeps his family "under the blood" by his prayers and intercessions. He is, in one sense of the word, a priest for his family. The primary ministry of a priest is to speak to God for his people. The Lord told Hosea because they were no longer priests to Him, He would forget their children. The sorrow of America today is that she has reared a generation of "God-forgotten" children, because parents have neglected their responsibility in this matter. As He restores to the church fathers and mothers who will pray and intercede for their children, we will see children and youth who are favored and honored by God. Satan fears praying parents for he stands powerless before their spiritual attack. Parents, kneel before God for your children's sake and claim all the abundant promises of God upon your family. He will hear you and reward you and your family accordingly!

and mother. If this is in contradiction to another commandment, then God Himself will provide a way of escape. The scriptures plainly teach the child to obey (an outward act). The child is also taught by the scripture to honor (an inward attitude of respect toward his parents). Even in the extreme situation mentioned above, the child must be sure that his inner attitude and spirit toward his parents is in harmony with the scriptural teaching of honor for the parents.

To a child or youth, obedience to parents may seem to be obedience to the will of man. Actually, the scriptures teach that obedience to the parents is, in essence, obedience to God. The Amplified Version says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord (as His representatives)." In submission to the parents' will, children learn to submit to a will higher than their own. Submission to parents is a school for the independent and direct obedience to God which the child will have to render when they no longer live under a parent's authority. It is for this reason that parents train their children: that in their own time, the children will follow the will of God and the guidance of His Spirit, not from parental command but from an inner desire of their own to obey the Word and will of God.

To learn obedience is to learn a basic law of spiritual life. God's authority often comes into our lives through human authority. When we find and recognize the authorities placed over us in the Word of God--and obey them--the direct blessing and favor of God follows! Children: Obey your parents! This is God's plan for you. In obeying them, you obey Him. Thus you will know the presence and blessing of the Lord in your life!

B. Parents

We could summarize the apostle's commands to parents in these three words: love, discipline, and teach. This simple outline of parental responsibility is patterned after the way God deals with His children.

One of the most urgent needs today in Christian homes is for parents (especially fathers) to recognize their God-given responsibility and authority as it relates to their children. God, in His Word, speaks to the children to obey their parents. He also speaks to the parents instructing them to give proper leadership and guidance to their children. When God gives responsibility, He also gives authority to carry it out. A parent who is in divine order has a God-given authority and must exercise it for the well-being and salvation of the family. No one may clothe himself with authority. But whoever has received authority from God must hold it firmly. He must have faith in it and must maintain it...out of faithfulness to God, not for selfish reasons. It is granted him

Because true marriage is essentially spiritual as well as personal and physical, staying in love is primarily a spiritual battle. It is for this reason that surrender to God is so important for happy love-life.

IV. PARENT-CHILD RESPONSIBILITIES

New Testament teaching concerning the responsibilities of parents to children and children to parents is summarized in the following verses:

Ephesians 6:1-4

<u>King James Version</u>	<u>The Amplified Bible</u>
1. Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.	1. Children, obey your parents in the Lord (as His representatives), for this is just and right.
2. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)	2. Honor (esteem and value as precious) your father and your mother; this is the first commandment with a promise: (Exodus 20:12).
3. That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.	3. That all may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth.
4. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.	4. Fathers, do not irritate and provoke your children to anger--do not exasperate them to resentment--but rear them (tenderly) in the training and discipline and the counsel and admonition of the Lord.

Colossians 3:20-21

20. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.	20. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.
21. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.	21. Fathers, do not provoke or irritate or fret your children--do not be hard on them or harass them; lest they become discouraged and sullen and morose and feel inferior and frustrated; do not break their spirit.

I Peter 3:7

7. Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.
7. In the same way you married men should live considerately with (your wives), with an intelligent recognition (of the marriage relation), honoring the woman as (physically) the weaker, but (realizing that you) are joint heirs of the grace (God's unmerited favor) of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered and cut off--otherwise you cannot pray effectively.

Two key words sum up the New Testament teaching of the husband's responsibility to his wife--"love" and "honor."

A. Love

The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love them, mother!

→ The husband is explicitly commanded to love his wife. Please note in Ephesians 5, that the husband is told three times to love his wife. While the scriptures put great emphasis on the submission of the wife, they also put equally strong emphasis on the fact that the husband must love his wife. This love may not always be a feeling of affection. There will be times when the husband feels anything BUT affection for her. (For example: If she does something foolish or without thinking). However, love is not primarily a feeling, but a choice for the other's highest good. The husband must get control of his feelings and do that which is right. He must learn to forgive--as Jesus said, "...seventy times seven" (Matthew 18:21-22). If his wife begins to wrongly assert leadership, his reaction may very well be to withdraw his love from her to "teach her a lesson." Nonetheless, he is under command to love her in this case, too. If he needs to reprove her, he must do it--but in love. His first duty is to be Christ-like to his wife. This means he must not only be a man of prayer, a man of the Word of God, a man of the church and a man of honesty and integrity, but he must be a man who shows Christ's love. Without it, his marriage will be doomed to failure.

Here we touch on the spiritual tap root of God's order for the family. At first glance one sees the husband and father set as authority over his wife and children, and this seems like a fine position for the man:...But one must look deeper. For the divine

This phrase "...Because of the angels..." opens up a great panorama of truth and light. It teaches that the covering on the wife's head (her long hair) is a symbol of her submission to her husband's authority. Both are important--the symbol (long hair) and the substance (her submission). The reason they are vitally important is explained by the phrase, "because of the angels." The word "angel" in the Bible sometimes refers to the holy angels and sometimes refers to the rebellious angels who fell with Satan. Some believe that this verse refers to the holy angels. In this case, this verse would mean that the woman should recognize her true position and fulfill it even as the angels do who also are ministering spirits. It would mean further that she is to take her place in the divine plan of God and not break the divine harmony even as the holy angels also kept their first estate and serve in heaven. While the verse is directed to the wife, the principle of maintaining divine order in the home "because of the angels" could apply equally to the husband and to the children.

B. Reverence

Please note how emphatically Paul states in Ephesians 5:33 that the wife is to "reverence her husband..." Also, in I Peter 3:2, the same Greek word for reverence is translated "fear." "While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear." Thus in both of these key passages on family relationships, the wife's reverence for her husband is emphasized.

The fullest definition of this word can be found in the Amplified New Testament:

"Let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband--that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly."

What about the unsaved husband? I Peter 3:1-2 gives clear instructions as to how a Christian wife can win her unsaved husband to the Lord. The Apostle Peter exhorts the wife to stop just talking about the Gospel to them and live a Christ-like life before them. The husband was to be won to the Lord not by nagging but by holy living. In time, the wife's pure and modest manner of living, together with her reverence for her husband, would cause him to yield to God and obey the gospel. What a great promise this is. More than one unsaved husband has been won to the Lord in this manner! God's way is always the best way!

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| <p>2. While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.</p> | <p>2. When they observe the pure and modest way in which you conduct yourselves, together with your reverence (for your husband. That is, you are to feel for him all that reverence includes)--to respect, defer to, revere him; (revere means) to honor, esteem (appreciate, prize), and (in the human sense) adore him; (and adore means) to admire, praise, be devoted to, deeply love and enjoy (your husband).</p> |
| <p>3. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;</p> | <p>3. Let not yours be the (merely) external adorning with (elaborate) interweaving and knotting of the hair, the wearing jewelry, or changes of clothes;</p> |
| <p>4. But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.</p> | <p>4. But let it be the inward adorning and beauty of the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible and unfading charm of a gentle and peaceful spirit, which (is not anxious or wrought up, but) is very precious in the sight of God.</p> |
| <p>5. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:</p> | <p>5. For it was thus that the pious women of old who hoped in God were (accustomed) to beautify themselves, and were submissive to their husbands--adapting themselves to them as themselves secondary and dependent upon them.</p> |
| <p>6. Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.</p> | <p>6. It was thus that Sarah obeyed Abraham (following his guidance and acknowledging his headship over her by) calling him lord--master, leader, authority. And you are now her true daughters if you do right and let nothing terrify you--not giving way to hysterical fears or letting anxieties unnerve you.</p> |

A careful reading of the above verses reveals two key words in the wife's responsibility to her husband. They are "submission" and "reverence." Indeed, it can almost be said that these two words sum up Biblical teaching on this important subject. Thus, a proper understanding of each of them is necessary.

CHRIST

The head of the husband:
Lord of the family.

HUSBAND

The head of the wife:
chief authority over the
children.

WIFE

The helpmeet to the husband
(Genesis 2:18): secondary
authority over the children.

CHILDREN

Respectfully obedient to
parents.

"The head of every man is Christ; and the
head of the woman is the man; and the head
of Christ is God."

I Corinthians 11:3

"Children, obey your parents in all things:
for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."

Colossians 3:20

The husband lives under the authority of Christ and is responsible to Christ for the leadership and care of the family. The wife lives under the authority of her husband and is responsible to him. The children live under the authority of both parents and are commanded to honor and obey them in everything.

Since the above order is so clearly spelled out in the Bible, do not attempt to alter or modify it in any way. Any change from that which His will has ordered only brings forth a misshapen form, for which there is no cure--except a return to God's original order.