



Equipping Hour

The God-given Role of Wives

Key Verse: Colossians 3:18

“Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”

Overview

In our last lesson, we saw how God has ordained marriage to be between one man and one woman. The sanctity of marriage needs to be preached in pulpits as Satan continues to attack the family. We also saw how two sinners can make a family work. This can only happen through mutual submission as each person lives a Spirit-filled, Spirit-controlled life.

Society has told women and wives that they are to be independent, self-fulfilled, and even to stay away from marriage. Marlene Dixon, a sociology professor at the University of Chicago, wrote: “The institution of marriage is the chief vehicle for the perpetuation of the oppression of women. It is through the role of wife that the subjugation of women is maintained.”¹ One writer says, “Marriage is a clear tool of oppression for women, but it also limits the choice of women, as she is stuck in the rattrap of motherhood, domestic work, and to fulfill society’s expectations that there is no self left. ‘I’ becomes ‘we’ in a marriage where women lose their individuality.”²

There are even so-called Christian women who think God’s Word does not apply anymore when it comes to marriage. They think the God-given roles are of the past and do not apply to marriage today. Megan Jordan, a writer for Sojourners (sojo.net) wrote, “When men discuss submission from a religious perspective, they quote the Bible to justify ruling over women. While writing this, an alert from my Bible app flashed saying, “Now, what should we learn from everything that is written in this book? The most important thing a person can do is to respect God and obey his commands, because he knows about everything people do” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). However, are all of these really God’s commands or the interpretation from another man? Throughout life, rules and systems are improved upon once the collective has reached a new perspective. So, when it comes to the Bible, how do we approach its commands that are no longer widely accepted or suitable in cultural practice?”³

These worldly views are antithetical to the biblical view of marriage and have caused many marriages to fail and families to suffer. Marriage is not ‘a tool of oppression for women.’ It is not something that we can redefine because society is moving in a new direction. Marriage was established by God at the beginning of creation, and when each person obeys God’s commands regarding his or her role, there is great blessing. Marriage is a God-ordained institution where a wife finds peace and great satisfaction. It

¹ <https://www.heritage.org/marriage-and-family/commentary/defense-marriage-0>

² <http://legisnations.com/a-feminist-view-of-marriage/>

³ Megan Jordan, The Danger of ‘Wives Submit to Your Husbands’ in Modern Society, Oct. 21, 2019, Sojo.net.

is the place where a woman finds provision and protection from her husband. It is the place where she finds abundant love and care.

After establishing mutual submission, Paul begins to outline how that mutual submission works in a family. God has established certain roles to both the husband and the wife in the family. In Ephesians 5:22, Paul begins his address to the wives.

The Exhortation of Godly Submission

1. Colossians 3:18. What does Paul tell the wives to do? _____
2. 1 Peter 3:1. What is the relationship of submission here? _____

3. Ephesians 5:22. Who is a wife to be subject to? _____

4. What is the motivation for a wife to submit to her husband? _____

The Explanation of Godly Submission

1. Ephesians 5:23. Why should a wife submit to her husband? _____
2. What illustration does Paul use to convey this truth? _____
3. 1 Peter 3:1–2. How does Peter describe the attitude and manner of submission?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

The Example of Godly Submission

1. 1 Peter 3:6–7. What did Sarah do? _____
2. Ephesians 5:23–24. How is Christ described? _____
3. How is the church described? _____
4. In what things should a wife be submissive to her husband? _____

The Expression of Godly Submission

1. Titus 2:3–5. How are the older women in the church to act?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
2. What are the older women in the church to do? _____
3. What are the older women to teach the younger women?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
 - f. _____
 - g. _____

“Submitting to someone whom God has placed over you with loving authority is a relief, not a burden.”
—Nancy Wilson, *The Fruit of Her Hands*, 17

Application

1. Wives, are you submitting to your husbands in everything?
2. Older women, are you looking for opportunities to encourage the younger women?
3. Husbands, are you loving and leading your wife?