Marriage: Roles & Responses (Part 2)

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday July 8th, 2018

Text: Gen. 2:18; Titus 2:3-5

### Intro

1. “The Bible sets forth specific and distinct roles for a husband and wife that must be accurately understood and practically fulfilled.” *(Preparing for Marriage by Dennis Rainey, p. 163)*
2. God gave us marriage and established within the relationship the necessary roles & responses for it to flourish – Eccl. 9:9
3. God’s ***core role*** of husbands: Head of the wife – *Eph. 5:23*
	1. Husband’s role as head of the wife (family) is as Christ is Head of the church *(Eph. 5:25-29)*
	2. Christ loved the church and came as a Servant-Leader – *Mk. 10:42-45*
	3. Husbands then are to lead their families as Christ leads: As a Servant-Leader!
	4. In the home, there must be a head, and there must be obedience to that head.
	5. God ordained that the husband is the head of the family. He indicated this by creating man first, then creating woman for the man *(Gen. 1:27; 2:18, 21-22).* Thus, both in the order and purpose of creation, He put man in the role of authority and woman in the response of submission.
4. God’s ***core response*** of wife to headship: Submission – *Eph. 5:22-24 (I Pet. 3:1-2, 5-6).*
	1. Submission does NOT mean a “Doormat” or “property of the husband!” *(Misperceptions of the world towards God’s pattern). Old Joke: Husband is the head, wife is neck that turns head.*
	2. Submission does not imply inferiority! *Not the neck that turns the head, but supports it*
	3. The Lord Jesus is submissive to God the Father, but in no way is He inferior to Him. Neither is the woman inferior to the man. In many ways she may be superior—in devotedness, in sympathy, in diligence, and in heroic endurance, but wives are commanded to submit to their own husbands, as to the Lord. *(As church submits to Lord)*
	4. In submitting to the authority of her husband, a wife is submitting to the Lord's authority. This in itself should remove any attitude of reluctance or rebellion!
5. The Wife also has a ***core role*** in marriage; it defines her essential place and her vital responsibility in marriage.
6. In turn, the Husband has a ***core response*** without which, marriage is a burden to the wife, bitterness to the husband and a battle in which there are no winners, only losers.
7. There are God-given roles of husband and wife; and God-given responses to each one’s role.
8. It is critical for those wishing to enter into marriage and for married couples to understand that Scriptural roles and responses are essential for marriage to be what God wants it to be (Eccl. 9:9)!

#### GOD’S CORE *ROLE* OF THE WIFE: HELPER–HOMEMAKER

* 1. Women are a ***Suitable Helper*** – Gen. 2:18 (KJV: “Help meet for him;” NKJ: “Helper comparable to him;” ESV: “Helper fit for him”) – *Neck that supports the head*
		1. Adam saw and named all the creatures God made and in so doing he realized there was none like him *(Gen. 2:19-20)*
		2. God uniquely made you to fill a role for your husband nobody else can! (Find fulfillment in being what God wants you to be!) – Gen. 2:18, 21-24
			1. Husbands have gaps in their lives that their wives are uniquely qualified to fill.
			2. He needs special attention only you can give. Without your help he is prone to imbalance and blind spots.
			3. While there is mutual responsibility toward each other in marriage, the wife’s essential role is helper; she completes her husband!
		3. You complete, ***NOT compete*** against, your husband! (Prov. 31:11-12)
			1. Competitors exploit weaknesses to gain the upper hand; helpers “fill in the gaps” and help support in weak areas.
			2. Competitive wives stir husbands to aggression and retaliation, or to withdrawal rather than caring, supporting and meeting the wife’s needs (Prov. 19:13; 21:9, 19)
		4. A Helper is ***NOT inferior*** (Heb. 13:6: God helps us); Expresses loving care and concern. (God is not our inferior, yet He helps us!)
		5. A Helper comforts (Jn. 14:16-18). Encourage your husband; be his source of confidence, assurance and invigoration against the world’s harshness.
	2. You are a ***Homemaker*** – Titus 2:3-5 (NAS” “workers at home;” NKJ: “homemakers;” KJV: “keepers at home;” ESV: “working at home”)
		1. Old saying: “The husband provides for the home but the wife makes it a home”
		2. **Homemaker:** *oikouros [oy-koo-ros'] (G3626): From G3624* (home, house, household), guard, keeper, watcher; housekeeper, keeper at home.
		3. Lit. a house guard; “caring for the house,” “the (watch or) keeper of the house,” “domestic.” Guard the house (family) – not necessarily limited to a building – *oikos G3624* means home, house(-hold), family
			1. Some have used this passage to show wives can’t work outside the home, but must remain at the house, “workers at home.” *(No careers, jobs, etc.)*
			2. The Greek word *oikouros (G3626)* implies both the house and home (family) – meaning both are in her domain (keeper, watcher, guard).
		4. There is no question the Wife is to manage the house – I Tim. 5:14: (KJV: “guide the house;” NAS: “keep house; NKJ: “manage the house;” (ESV: “manage their household”) – *G3616:* rule a family, guide the house
			1. This is NOT limited to a building or house chores! (cleaning, cooking, etc.) *Another misperception of the world is Christianity relegates the wife to an over-glorified “house cleaner” or “housekeeper.”*
			2. She is to ***manage*** the house (I Tim. 5:14), that is to guide the home (family); Prov. 31:12, 15, 27
		5. A woman that works outside the house takes on an added responsibility, in that her first priority is to her family (not just a house) and home, not just her career
			1. Some women take jobs to help out their husbands in various ways (family-owned businesses, husband in school or training for better job/career, finances tight, making ends meet, to help with bills, husband injured or laid up/disabled, etc.) – In so doing, she is fulfilling her role as a **“Suitable Helper!”**
			2. Some women take jobs because they don’t want to be at home or to help out, or various other reasons this age of feminism has wrought ***(Wrong Attitude!)***
			3. Whatever the case, the job is the added responsibility/burden, and not the taking care of her family!
			4. If a wife can work outside the house (job, career) & still maintain her role as “keeper of the house” (“manage the house”) she is pleasing to God!
	3. **Warning:** “That the Word of God may not be Blasphemed!” – Titus 2:5 (NKJ)
		1. The Wife’s role transcends fads and cultures! *(God’s word stands despite not being popular in society today)*
		2. At stake is the organizational structure God created to make a marriage work!
		3. The Wife who meets her role as **Helper-Homemaker** honors God!
		4. Wives, if you work outside the house, prioritize your family around your job, not the other way around!
	4. Ultimately, her fulfilling her role of Helper-Homemaker is an issue between the Wife and the Lord! *(Titus 2:5)*

#### GOD’S CORE *RESPONSE* OF THE HUSBAND TO HIS WIFE’S ROLE: PRAISE AND HONOR

* 1. ***Praise*** and ***Honor*** are the ***Masculine Counterpart*** to Submission (Prov. 31:28-30)
		1. Warned against bitterness towards wife (Col. 3:19). Authority expressed in praise, not “might and power” expressed in tyranny!
		2. To accomplish: Dwell with understanding (KJV: “knowledge”) – I Pet. 3:7
			1. Find out her needs and desires, and supply them.
			2. Recognize this is a daily learning process.
			3. When in doubt, ask!
		3. Ways you can praise and honor your wife *[cherish – Eph. 5:28-29]* OR, ***Reasons Why Wives Won’t Become Angry and Resentful Toward Their Husbands:***
			1. Husband is caring toward her
			2. Husband is appreciative of her
			3. Husband is unselfish toward her
			4. Husband is not lazy or passive in helping her
			5. Husband has good listening habits
			6. Husbands have eyes only for her – rejoice in her (Prov. 5:18)
		4. “Show her honor” – I Pet. 3:7
			1. “Weaker” doesn’t mean inferior but means she is to be cherished and valued *(Eph. 5:28-30)! (Like the valuable tool in a special case that’s not just thrown in the toolbox! You care for it and treat it with honor.)*
			2. She is NOT inferior as she is due special honor from her husband as a “fellow heir of the grace of life” (“fellow” means “equal”)
			3. A Christian husband and Christian wife have a doubly special relationship in that they are also “brother and sister in Christ” and will inherit Heaven!
			4. Husbands can treat their wives in a dishonorable way that will hinder their prayers, which will require repentance and forgiveness! (I Pet. 3:12)
	2. Ultimately, his response of praise and honor to her role of Helper-Homemaker is an issue between the Husband and the Lord! *(I Pet. 3:7)*

## Conclusion

1. Although the husband is called to lead (Servant-Leader) and provide for the home (Provider), the ***wife’s special role is to make it a home!***
2. The ***Husband’s challenge is to respond with praise and honor for his wife*** (acknowledge her, understand her, honor her).
3. Husbands & Wives are both told to love one another *(Eph. 5:25, 28; Titus 2:4),* therefore love is a commandment (NOT optional, or uncontrolled emotion).
	1. Love means all that is included in *I Corinthians 13.*
	2. Love is kind. For instance: It will keep you from criticizing or contradicting your spouse in front of others.
	3. Love will keep you from quarreling in front of your children, which could undermine their security. In these and a hundred other ways, love creates a happy atmosphere in the home and rules out strife and separations.
	4. Love covers a multitude of sins! (Prov. 10:12; I Pet. 4:8)
4. Maintain absolute honesty in order to have a basis of mutual confidence!
5. Keep lines of communication open. There must be a constant readiness to talk things out. (Don’t let strife and disagreement fester and sour)
6. Husbands and wives are joint-heirs of eternal life *(I Pet. 3:7)!*
7. Let us strive to be the husbands and wives God wants us to be!
8. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
9. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
10. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!