

## Biblical Counseling and Discipleship Conference

The Biblical Role of the Wife

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### THE CONTEXT OF A WOMAN'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

- ▶ We Live in a World Where Things Go Wrong (1 Peter 2:11-20)
  - There are **FLESHLY** temptations (2:11)
  - Believers are **SLANDERED** and persecuted (2:12)
  - There really are **IGNORANT** and foolish men (2:15).

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### THE CONTEXT OF A WOMAN'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

- Authorities are sometimes **UNREASONABLE** (2:18)
- There really is **UNJUST** suffering (2:19-20)

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### THE CONTEXT OF A WOMAN'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

- ▶ We Live in a World Where Marriages Go Wrong (1 Peter 3:1-7)
  - There are **DISOBEDIENT** husbands (3:1)
  - Wives are tempted be concerned with **EXTERNALS** more than **INTERNALS** (3:3-4)

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### THE CONTEXT OF A WOMAN'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

- Wives are tempted to be **FEARFUL** about doing what is right (3:6)
- Husbands are tempted to be **UNDISCERNING** of the needs of their wives (3:7a).
- Husbands are tempted to **OVERESTIMATE** their spiritual authority (3:7b)

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### THE CONTEXT OF A WOMAN'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

- ▶ One Short Phrase to Guide Our Thinking (3:1, 7)

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### THE CONTEXT OF A WOMAN'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

- ▶ When Marriage Goes Wrong, Remember...
  - Work for the salvation of your husband by the EXCELLENCE of your character (2:12, 3:1)
  - HONOR all people — even ungodly husbands (2:15-17)
  - There is VALUE in patient endurance (2:18-20)

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### THE CONTEXT OF A WOMAN'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

- You have been called to SUFFER (2:21)
- You are in your marriage as a means of GRACE to your husband (3:1, 7)
- YOUR goal is YOUR personal transformation (3:1-3, 7)
- It is possible to be GODLY (and CONTENT) when your husband is ungodly (3:2, 7)

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### A WOMAN'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

- ▶ The godly wife is an HONORER (through loving submission) — Eph. 5:22-24
- The primary way in which a wife pleases God in the context of her marriage is by loving SUBMISSION to her husband (Eph. 5:24, 33, Titus 2:5)

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### A WOMAN'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

- What loving submission is NOT:
  - Submission is not MUTUAL.
  - Submission is not putting her husband in place of CHRIST (no husband-worship)
  - Submission is not giving up INDEPENDENT thought and becoming intellectually stagnant

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### A WOMAN'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

- Submission is not giving up all efforts to INFLUENCE her husband; she can still influence him (1 Pt. 3)
- Submission is not giving in to every DEMAND of her husband.
- Submission is not based on her husband's inherent SUPERIORITY to her (Gal. 3:28; 1 Pt. 3:7)

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### A WOMAN'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

- What loving submission IS:
  - Biblical definition of submission:
    - The Greek word for submission means, "to arrange or place yourself under." It is willing subordination of a person to someone or something else. It is the *attitude* of willingly following another and willingly surrendering one's will to the will of another.

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### A WOMAN'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

- In the context of the home, “Biblical submission for the wife is the divine calling to honor and affirm her husband’s leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts” (Piper & Grudem, *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, 53).

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### A WOMAN'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

- Submission is to HER OWN husband (Eph. 5:22).
- Submission includes REVERENCE and dedication toward her husband (Eph. 5:33)
- Submission is a SPIRITUAL matter for a wife in 3 senses:
  - The MANNER — “as unto the Lord” (Eph. 5:22).

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### A WOMAN'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

- The MODEL — “as the church is subject to Christ” (Eph. 5:24, 32).
- The MEANS — “be filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:18)
- Submission is a COMPREHENSIVE matter — “in everything” (Eph. 5:24).
- Submission is a COMMAND.
- Submission is a VOLITIONAL matter.

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### A WOMAN'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

- ▶ The godly wife is a **HELPER** (Gen. 2:18)
  - She complements her husband as his **COMPANION**.
  - She uses her many gifts and abilities to **ASSIST** her husband by being an industrious, frugal, diligent, ambitious, and creative member of the team (*Ps. 128:3, Prov. 31:10-31; cp. Gen. 49:25; 1 Sam. 7:12; Ps. 27:9; 28:7; 30:10; Is. 41:10, 13; 50:7, 9; used approx. 14x of God*). **Helper** ≠ weakness.

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### A WOMAN'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

- ▶ The godly wife is a **HOMEMAKER** (Titus 2:4-5)
  - By diligently **LOVING** her husband and children.
    - Building **LOYALTY** to him in the children
    - Cooperating with him in **RAISING** children (Prov. 1:8, Eph. 6:1).

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### A WOMAN'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

- By diligently **WORKING** in the home (Titus 2:5)
- The **HOME** is the sphere or context in which she fulfills her God-given responsibilities

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**IMPLICATIONS: WHAT YOU WILL WANT TO  
TEACH YOUR MARRIED FEMALE COUNSELEES:**

► **Renew Your Mind:**

- Suffering is the calling of every believer and suffering in a difficult marriage (and suffering/trials are different than abuse) may be my particular calling.
- How I am responding to my difficult marriage is revealing the condition of my heart and where I need to change and grow, so this trial is good for me.

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**IMPLICATIONS: WHAT YOU WILL WANT TO  
TEACH YOUR MARRIED FEMALE COUNSELEES:**

- It's more important for me to change than for my husband to change (and I can be satisfied with Christ even if my husband never changes).
- It is more important for me to be a means of *grace to* my husband than a recipient of *grace from* my husband.

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**IMPLICATIONS: WHAT YOU WILL WANT TO  
TEACH YOUR MARRIED FEMALE COUNSELEES:**

- Submission is my gift to your husband. It is also a joy for me. Submission is a matter of obedience to Christ, and obedience always will produce joy (Jn. 15:10f).
- Giving to my husband is better than getting from my husband. (Do I believe Acts 20:35 — “more blessed to give than receive?”)

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**IMPLICATIONS: WHAT YOU WILL WANT TO  
TEACH YOUR MARRIED FEMALE COUNSELEES:**

- I am willing to endure a difficult marriage as a means (the last means?) to a gospel witness to my husband (1 Pt. 3:1).

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**IMPLICATIONS: WHAT YOU WILL WANT TO  
TEACH YOUR MARRIED FEMALE COUNSELEES:**

► Put Off:

- I will stop nagging, complaining, and manipulation (Prov. 11:22; 14:1; 19:13-14; 21:9, 19; 25:4; 27:15-16). Those tactics dishonor the Lord, and may serve to drive away my husband.
- I will stop attempting to usurp my husband's authority.

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**IMPLICATIONS: WHAT YOU WILL WANT TO  
TEACH YOUR MARRIED FEMALE COUNSELEES:**

- I will not cultivate anger, resentment, bitterness, or "disappointment." I will confess my anger as anger against the Lord (Js. 1:19-20).
- I will stop being argumentative (and will begin to practice respectful appeals).
- I will not be fearful, for God is my protector, keeper, and provider. (I will confess every instance of fear as sin against the Lord.)

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**IMPLICATIONS: WHAT YOU WILL WANT TO TEACH YOUR MARRIED FEMALE COUNSELEES:**

► Put On:

- I will delight in Christ more than I treasure my husband (help her with God-exalting verses to memorize and Scriptures to pray).
- I will actively submit to and follow my husband's leadership (help her think about specific ways she can do that with her particular husband).

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**IMPLICATIONS: WHAT YOU WILL WANT TO TEACH YOUR MARRIED FEMALE COUNSELEES:**

- I will pursue obedience in all things (help her identify particular areas she needs to be obedient).
- I will use words that honor my husband (help her think about loving words/sentences).
- I will cultivate acts of love and service for my husband (have her do several unique acts of love each week from a list of 50+ that she creates).

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**CONCLUSION:**

Remember that Christ is the Savior (Eph. 5:23), which has two implications for everyone:

- Christ is the great example of submission
- No one will carry out their roles perfectly

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