

The Biblical Role of the Wife

Biblical Counseling & Discipleship Conference

The godly wife is an HONORER.

- The primary way in which a wife pleases God in the context of her marriage is by loving **SUBMISSION** to her husband.
- What loving submission is NOT:
 - Submission is *not* **MUTUAL**
 - Submission is *not* putting her husband in place of **CHRIST**

The godly wife is an honorer.

- Submission is *not* giving up **INDEPENDENT** thought and becoming intellectually stagnant
- Submission is *not* giving up all efforts to **INFLUENCE** her husband
 - A wife primarily influences her husband through her **BEHAVIOR**
 - The excellent wife speaks **WISDOM**

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- Submission is *not* giving in to every **DEMAND** of her husband
- Submission is *not* the same as being **AFRAID** of her husband
- Submission is *not* letting her **GIFTS** lie dormant and becoming immobile

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- Submission is *not* believing her husband is INFALLIBLE
- Submission is *not* based on her husband's SUPERIORITY to her

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- What loving submission IS:
 - Biblical definition of submission:
 - the Greek word for submission means “to arrange or place yourself under”
 - “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).

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- Submission is God's way of attaining and maintaining **FUNCTION** and **ORDER** in the home — as in other realms in society:
 - True in the **GOVERNMENT**
 - True in the **CHURCH**
 - True in the **TRINITY**
 - True in the **HOME**

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- Submission is a way of life for **ALL** believers
 - for children
 - for young people
 - for employers and employees
 - for all people to the government
 - for all believers to God Himself
 - for all believers in different ways
 - for wives

The godly wife is an honorer.

- Submission is to **HER OWN** husband
- Submission includes **REVERENCE** and dedication toward her husband
 - She does all she can to help her husband be a good **LEADER**
 - Submission is not based on his worthiness but on his God-given **POSITION** and **ROLE**

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- Submission is a **SPIRITUAL** matter for a wife:
 - The **MANNER** — “as unto the Lord”
 - The **MODEL** — “as the church is subject to Christ”
 - The **MEANS** — “be filled with the Spirit”

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- Submission is a **COMPREHENSIVE** matter
- Submission is a **COMMAND**
- Submission is a **VOLITIONAL** matter
- Submission is a **PRACTICAL** matter
 - It affects **ACTIONS**
 - It affects **ATTITUDES**

The godly wife is an honorer.

- SUMMARY PRINCIPLES:
 - Being content with submission begins with a transformed mind.
 - Submission will evidence itself in encouraging words, not manipulative strategies.
 - Do not try to separate “submission” from “respect.”

The godly wife is an honorer.

- Submission is your gift to your husband.
- There is much that a husband can do to make submission a joy and not a burden.

The godly wife is a HELPER.

"The wife was made of the husband's rib; not of his head, for Paul calls the husband the wife's head; not of the foot, for he must not set her at his foot. The servant is appointed to serve, and the wife to help. If she must not match with the head, nor stoop at the foot, where shall he set her then? He must set her at his heart, and therefore she which should lie in his bosom was made in his bosom." [Puritan Henry Smith.]

The godly wife is a **HELPER**.

- She complements her husband as his **COMPANION** (Gen. 2:18).
- She uses her many gifts and abilities to **ASSIST** her husband by being an industrious, frugal, diligent, ambitious, and creative member of the team.

The godly wife is a **HOMEMAKER**.

- By diligently **LOVING** her husband and children
 - Building **LOYALTY** to him in the children
 - Cooperating with him in **RAISING** children
- By diligently **WORKING** in the home
 - “Workers at home” literally means “home-worker”
 - The **HOME** is the sphere or context in which she fulfills her God-given responsibilities

The godly wife is a homemaker

- The Proverbs 31 model
 - She makes the home a **SAFE** place (vv. 10-31)
 - She is trustworthy and **DEPENDABLE** (vv. 11-12)
 - She is **ORGANIZED** and productive (vv. 13-14)
 - She is **ENTERPRISING** (vv. 16-19)
 - She is generous as a **NEIGHBOR** (vs. 20)
 - She is a **TEACHER** (vv. 25-26)
 - She is blessed as a **MOTHER** (vv. 27-31)

The Biblical Role of the Wife

- Remember that Christ is the Savior:
 - Christ is the great example of submission.
 - No husband or wife will carry out his or her roles perfectly, which means that we are all dependent on the Savior for forgiveness and redemption. And that is just what He provides.