

The Godly Woman
Being “A Helper Fit For Him” - Part I - Follow The Leader

Marriage is a trinity - even as God is a trinity. The parts of marriage are: spiritual, emotional and physical. Like a three-legged milk stool, if one part is missing, it becomes ineffective in its operation. Further, the very nature of marriage in its intimacy reveals the weaknesses and shortcomings of each partner. With this knowledge comes the ability to hurt deeply. We are charged before God with the privilege and responsibility of completing our husbands, of being “a helper fit for him” (Genesis 2:18). Therefore, we desperately need to know and understand the needs of our husbands and to take the necessary steps to meet them. Only in this way can we adequately fulfill our responsibility and privilege.

His Part And Mine - Or, Where Do I Fit In?

1. Study the following verses: Genesis 2:18; Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18, 19; 1 Peter 3:7. Using the information found in these verses, write a definition for:

- a. The role of the husband
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- b. The role of the wife
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God's role for a wife is to be a completer, not a competitor.

2. The role of the wife is a supportive role. From the following verses list some of the ways a wife should support her husband.

- Ephesians 5:24
- Proverbs 31:12
- I Peter 3:6 (Living)
- Ephesians 5:33 (Living & Amplified)
- Proverbs 31:11
- I Peter 3:1
- I Thessalonians 5:17
- Colossians 3:13
- Ephesians 4:26-27
- Ephesians 4:2, 3 (Living)

3. According to Ephesians 5:24, 25, what one word summarizes God's chief command to:
husbands?

wives?

4. Check several sources, then formulate a definition of submission.

5. From Ephesians 5:22-24, what do we learn about submission?

*“Many modern women do not like the idea of being subject to a man because they do not know the inner meaning of the command, ‘Be subject’ Both the Greek and Latin words carry the idea of throwing oneself under, as a foundation, as an assistant, or to use the biblical phrase concerning our first parents, ‘a helper fit for him’ (Genesis 2:18, 20).”
- Donald Grey Barnhouse*

6. Why do you think God requires the role of submission rather than the role of leadership for wives?

7. Comment on this statement: “Submission is an attitude before it is an act.”

8. Answer the following yes/no questions and then explain why you gave that answer to each question.

a. Can a woman be truly submitted to God and not to her husband?

Explain:

b. Does the husband's headship mean he is to operate as a dictator?

Explain:

c. Does the headship of the husband and the submission of the wife indicate that man is superior and woman is inferior?

Explain:

d. Should a wife always submit to her husband, or only when she thinks he's right?

Explain:

There is no position of superiority or inferiority when a husband and wife fulfill their God-appointed roles. Each has a different - but equally important role. They are like a lock and key - neither is more important than the other, and neither can fulfill its function without the other.

9. Is there an area of your life in which you are not submissive to your husband (and therefore not submissive to Christ)?

What will you do about it this week?

What other area of the supportive role (question #2) do you need to improve in?

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What will you do this week to improve in that area?

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“God Requires Submission Of Women Because It Suits Their Needs - Not His.” -Howard Hendricks

The Never-Fail Formula

1. Without using reference material write out your definition of love.

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2. Read I Corinthians 13 in several translations. Write out the one thing which stands out to you most

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3. From verses 1-3, list some things-which are good in themselves, but which are worthless without love.

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4. True love always expresses itself. The following action words for love have been taken from several translations of the Bible. Take each one and write out in your own words: 1) *what it means* and 2) *how it works in the home*:

a. Love is patient.

1)

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2)

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b. Love is kind.

1)

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2)

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c. Love is not jealous.

1)

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2)

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d. Love is not boastful.

1)

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2)

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- e. Love has good manners.
 - 1)
 - 2)
- f. Love is not selfish.
 - 1)
 - 2)
- g. Love is not arrogant.
 - 1)
 - 2)
- h. Love is not irritable.
 - 1)
 - 2)
- i. Love is not resentful.
 - 1)
 - 2)

5. From verse 7 of I Corinthians 13, choose the one aspect which seems most important. Give an example of how it should work in marriage or in the home.

- a. My choice:
- b. How it should work:

6. From I Corinthians 13:1-7 answer the following questions.

- a. What is your greatest need at this time?
- b. How does this need manifest itself ?
- c. What steps will you take this week, with God's help, to improve in this area of need?

Suggestions For Further Study

- Tape 1060 - Difficulties In the Walk of Love, Shirley Rice
- Tape 1061 - Submission, Shirley Rice
- Tape 1155 - Role and Responsibility of the Wife, Howard Hendricks
- Tape 1180 - Role and Responsibility of the Wife, Irma Warr

For Women Only, by Peterson, Tyndale House