

# Roles of the Wife

**The Gospel Institute – Biblical Counseling and Discipleship  
Class**

**Marriage and Premarriage Class**

Week 7

Sessions 2 & 3

## Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them

Gender identifies Identity/Position which defines roles;  
Roles are helpful in determining responsibilities

*The Curse brought a distortion of previous roles, not the  
introduction of new ones” Wayne Grudem*

# Your Identity Reveals Position and Roles in Marriage

- God's purpose for you in marriage is revealed by His choice of your gender. Your male/female identity models the trinity as you live in oneness within His established hierarchy. Know and accept your God-given roles as defined by your identity.
- Role/Responsibility – Choosing to learn how to specifically obey the imperatives in God's word as you divide household responsibilities.

# Mutual Responsibilities in Marriage

1. Submission to God (Ex. 20).
2. Love God and each other (Mk. 12:30-31).
3. Forgive and seek forgiveness (Eph. 4:32).
4. Communicate (Eph. 4:15,25,29).
5. Pursue oneness (Gen. 2:23-25).
6. Meet spouse's sexual interests (1 Cor. 7:1-7).
7. Develop and nurture an environment of grace, effectively modeling, training, and disciplining children to become worshippers. (Mal. 2:14-17).

- **Gen 2:18** Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; [n](#)I will make him a helper fit for [5](#) him.”
- **Eccl.4:9** Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. **10** For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! **11** Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, [i](#)but how can one keep warm alone? **12** And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

## Male and Female Identity and Roles

<b>HUSBAND</b>	<b>WIFE</b>
Lover	Completer (Gen. 2:18)
Learner	Helper
Leader	Follower

# Completing her husband

- In companionship. (Gen 2:18)
- In sexual relationship (1 Cor. 7:1-5)
- In his responsibilities (work/job). (Gen 1:28)  
    "Make him better at what he does"
- In the parenting process. (Gen 1:28)
- In exercising his spiritual gifts within the church (1 Cor 12)
- In reaching out to the community (Matt 5:13-16)

## Completing and Complimenting through Spiritual Vibrancy

- In the Bible the word helper speaks of a person who meets the needs of, or completes another person. A biblical helper is a very important part of the marriage equation. God is the perfect Helper.
- (Ps. 46; 10:14; 118:7; Deut. 33:29; Heb. 13:6)

## Completing and Complimenting through Spiritual Vibrancy

1. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, ... Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, ... (1 Pet. 3:1-4)
2. Meekness towards God is manifested in voluntary, continual submission *“is an inwrought grace of the soul; and the exercises of it are first and chiefly towards God. It is that temper of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting;”*

## Faithful to Him and the Household

1. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. (Pr. 31:11)
2. Manage Household Wisely - ... she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. (Pr. 31:15)
3. ...watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. (Pr. 31:27)
4. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. (1 Tim. 3:11)

## Ways to be a Helper (Wayne Mack)

1. Making the home a refuge - a place of encouragement, comfort, and understanding (Prov. 31:11, 20).

Avoid jokes about your husband or cutting remarks to him. Don't constantly remind him of his faults, mistakes, and failures. Correct him only if it's absolutely necessary. Don't allow the home to be in shambles, full of disorder and confusion. Don't create a show-place home where everything must always be immaculate. Husbands want homes to live in, not show places to visit.

## Ways to be a Helper (Wayne Mack)

2. Be trustworthy and dependable (Pr. 31:11, 12).
3. Maintain a good attitude (Pr. 31:26, 28, 29; Ja. 3:13-18; Phil. 4:4).
4. Discuss things lovingly, openly, and honestly (Eph. 4:25).
5. Be satisfied with your position, possessions, and tasks (Phil. 4:6-13; Heb. 13:5,16).
6. Be longsuffering, forgiving, and forbearing (Eph. 4:2, 31, 32; Col. 3:12-14).
7. Show genuine interest in his problems and concerns (Phil. 2:3, 4).

## **Ways to be a Helper (Wayne Mack)**

8. Be industrious, frugal, diligent, ambitious, and creative as a member of the team (Ps. 128:3; Pr. 31:10-31).
9. Offer suggestions, advice, and corrections when needed in a loving fashion (Pr. 31:26).
10. Keep yourself beautiful, especially in the inner person by maintaining a good spiritual life (1 Pet. 3:1-7).
11. Cooperate with him in raising children (Eph. 6:20; Pr. 31:26-28; 1 Tim. 5:13,14).

## **Ways to be a Helper (Wayne Mack)**

### 12. Build loyalty to him in the children.

The wife's attitudes toward the husband are quickly picked up by the children. Lack of respect or confidence in his leadership, complaints about what he has or has not done will have debilitating influence on the children. She must avoid taking sides with the children or anyone against her husband. She must support and cooperate with him in discipline. All differences of opinion about discipline should be settled away from the children.

## Ways to be a Helper (Wayne Mack)

13. Be grateful to him.

Appreciation should be expressed freely and in a variety of ways (Rom. 13:7).

14. Show confidence in his decisions.

Disdain, lack of confidence, anxiety, or strong opposition over his decisions may cause him to become indecisive, defensive, or reactionary. If the wife doubts the wisdom of important decisions, she should ask questions in a non-threatening way, assuming that there are some facts she does not know and that he really does want what is best for them both (1 Cor. 13:4-8).

# Following in Submission and Respect

1Peter 3:1-2

Likewise, wives, **k**be subject to your own husbands, so that **l**even if some do not obey the word, **m**they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, **2** when they see your **n**respectful and pure conduct.

## Showing Respect

<sup>33</sup>However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Eph. 5:33)

The word “respect” means to highly regard, notice, honor, prefer, esteem, praise, admire exceedingly.

The responsibility of the wife is to “respect” her husband. That is a command, and not an option. Therefore, a wife cannot use the excuse that “he doesn’t deserve it.” The wife must give respect to her husband in spite of his imperfections.

# Showing Respect

She should respect him as a person.

She should respect his position.

"The wife is to respond respectfully to her husband because of his God-given position...This respect is not only an outward show, but also an inward heart attitude of obedience to God"

(Martha Peace, *The Excellent Wife*, 109)

## Why Submission?

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (Eph. 5:22-24)

\* Commanded (Col. 3:18; Tit. 2:4, 5; 1Tim. 2:9-12; 1 Pet. 3:1-6)

A matter of obedience - *“as unto the Lord”*

## Why Submission?

- \* Goal of unity and oneness (Eph. 4:1-4)
- \* Goal of mutual edification (Eph. 4:12,15-16)
- \* Called to be imitators of God. (Eph. 5:1-17)
- \* Enabled by the filling of the Spirit. (Eph. 5:18)
- \* Reflecting the relationship of Christ and the Church (Eph. 5:22-33)

## Why Submission?

- \* Comprehensive command - “But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.”
- \* Limited command - this excludes any request from the husband that would cause the wife to sin (cf. Acts 5:29).
- \* Submission is a universal command. Satan failed (Is. 14:13), Adam failed (Gen. 3), all humans fail (Is. 53:6; Rom. 3:9ff)

## What Submission is not

1. Woman is NOT INFERIOR to the husband.
2. “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear,... because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. (Jn. 5:30) (see Gen 1:26-27; 2:23)
3. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Gal. 3:28)
4. Submission does not mean that the husband is infallible. (Rom. 13:1; 1 Pet. 3:1-6)
5. Submission does not mean that the wife can't think or be productive. (Prov. 31)

## What Submission is

1. The Greek word translated “submission” in our English Bibles is a military term that literally means “arrange yourself in rank under.” In any organization, or relationship (even the Trinity), there has to be a plan for function and order.
2. Someone has to take the lead and carry the responsibility; someone has to follow.
3. Submission demonstrates love for God - but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.  
(Jn. 14:31)

## Voluntary, Continual Submission

1. Submission reflects the eternal nature of the God-head; Jesus always submits to the Father, the Holy Spirit always submits to Christ and the Father.
2. 1 Pet. 2:13ff - Citizens be subject...Slaves be subject...
3. Because the Savior suffered...
4. Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands (1 Pet. 3:1-6; Col. 3:18)
5. Reflects Christ and the Church (Eph. 5:23)

# How our Roles stay the same – (when circumstance seems to require a role change)

- **God's Word doesn't change** Ps 19:7-8
- **Desire to please God** 2 Cor. 5:9
- **Humble yourself and ask for help!**
  - James 1:5 *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.*
  - Proverbs 11:14 *Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.*
  - 15:22 *Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisors they succeed.*
- **Church's Role**
  - Galatians 6:10 *So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

## The Role of a Mother

1. Not every wife is called to be a mother
2. Mothers are called to first fulfill her role as wife as they seek to be godly mothers to their children. (see all above)
3. Mothers must not abdicate their parental responsibilities to their husbands.
4. Mothers must fight the temptations to sin when their husbands don't lead spiritually and take initiatives with their children.

## Committed to Godly Children

1. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, (Tit. 2:4)
2. Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. (Pr. 1:8)
3. <sup>7</sup>Impress them [commandments] on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (Deut. 6:6-9)

## Choosing and Deferring re: Tasks

- Who pays the bills?
- Who manages household maintenance?
- Who empties the waste cans? Takes out the garbage?
- Who mows the grass? Who shovels snow?
- Who plans menus? Cooks the meals? Does the dishes?
- Who makes the bed? Who says how it's done?
- Who drives?

# The Blessings of a Godly Marriage

