

Roles of the Woman in Marriage

Biblical Soul-Care Workshops

**THE GOSPEL
INSTITUTE**

Week 7

Session 3

Revised 06/21/16

Your Gender Reveals Position & Roles in Marriage

- God's will for your **position** in marriage is revealed by His choice of your gender. Your gender is an integral part of your God-given identity.
- Know & accept your gender as part of your identity.
- Gender defines your **role and purpose** in marriage. Gender differences model the Trinitarian oneness, demonstrating the characteristics and nature of God as man and woman pursue unity in diversity.
- Gender differences are foundational to understanding male/female **responsibilities** in the marriage.

Identity/Position in Marriage

God
Jesus
Holy Spirit
Government
Church
Employer
Husband
Wife
Children

- *Standing within a God-determined hierarchy - Reflects Trinitarian Unity*
- Jesus Christ always was and always will be in subjection to the Father
- God's design before and after the fall
- Gender identifies Identity/Position which defines roles; Roles are helpful in determining responsibilities

Male and Female Identity and Roles

HUSBAND	WIFE
Lover	Completer (Gen. 2:18)
Servant-Leader	Servant (Eph. 5:22-24)
Learner	Helper (Gen. 2:18)
Protector	Loving companion (Tit. 2; Eph. 5:22-24)
Provider	Manager (Pr.31)
Father	Mother

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

Why the World Resists the Woman's Role

1. Depravity is by nature rebellious
2. Depravity demands autonomy
3. Past sinful views of women by men in the church
4. Past sinful treatment of women by men in the church
5. Heretical teaching about women's roles in the church

Repenting and Turning

1. The Church needs to renounce past errors and sin in this area
2. Men who claim to be believers need to repent and turn from sinful views and behaviors against women.
3. All must re-define roles for men and women based on solid, biblical interpretations

Glorifying God as a “Helper-Suitable”

1. Helper-opposite, completing and complimenting the man. (Gen. 2:18)
2. The Holy Spirit as helper - For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance (Phil. 1:19)
3. God as helper strengthens (Eph. 3:16)
4. God as helper gives refuge and strength. (Ps. 46)

Completing and Complimenting thru Spiritual Vibrancy

- The biblical word “helper” speaks of a person who meets the needs of, or completes another person. A biblical helper is a very important part of God’s design for marriage. The wife’s role is to reflect God [albeit imperfectly] as the Perfect Helper.
- *For additional study:* Use a concordance to look up the uses of the words “help” and “helper” in the book of Psalms.

Completing and Complimenting thru Spiritual Vibrancy

- 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)
- 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;”*

Ways to be a Helper (Wayne Mack)

1. Making the home a refuge - a place of encouragement, comfort, & understanding (Prov. 31:11, 20). Avoid jokes about your husband or cutting remarks to him. Don't constantly remind him of his faults, mistakes, & failures. Correct him only if it's absolutely necessary. Don't allow the home to be in shambles, full of disorder & 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, & 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, & 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).

Other-focused Oneness

1. Doing good for her husband
2. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. (Prov. 31:12)
3. Learn to love your husband
4. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, (Titus 2:4)

Show Respect

1. ³³However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Eph. 5:33)
2. The word “respect” means to highly regard, notice, honor, prefer, esteem, praise, admire exceedingly.
3. 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.

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)

Why Submission?

1. Submission is an eternal quality of the God-head (Jn.8:26-29)
2. To imitate God. (Eph. 5:1-17)
3. To reflect the relationship of Christ and the Church (Eph. 5:22-33)
4. Goal of unity and oneness (Eph. 4:1-4) & mutual edification (Eph. 4:12,15-16)
5. Interdependence, not mutual submission. (Eph. 5:21)
6. Enabled by the filling of the Spirit. (Eph. 5:18), out of reverence for Christ, with thanksgiving (Eph. 5:19-20)

Why Submission?

8. Submission is commanded – “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; see also Col. 3:18; Tit. 2:4, 5; 1 Tim. 2:9-12; 1 Pet. 3:1-6)
9. Submission is to be a continuous - The Greek verb “be subject” (Eph. 5:22 & most other passages) is present tense, meaning be a continuous part of her lifestyle.

Why Submission?

11. A matter of obedience - *“as unto the Lord”*
12. Comprehensive command - “But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.”
13. Submission is a limited command - this excludes any request from the husband that would cause the wife to sin (cf. Acts 5:29) or violate her conscience.
14. Submission is a universal command. Satan failed (Is. 14:13), Adam failed (Gen. 3), all humans have failed (Is. 53:6; Rom. 3:9ff).
15. Submission in the home begins with the husband's submission to God, then to all earthly authority.

What Submission is not

1. The woman is NOT INFERIOR to the man.
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 man is infallible. (Rom. 13:1; 1 Pet. 3:1-6)
5. Submission does not mean that the woman 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)

The Role of a Mother

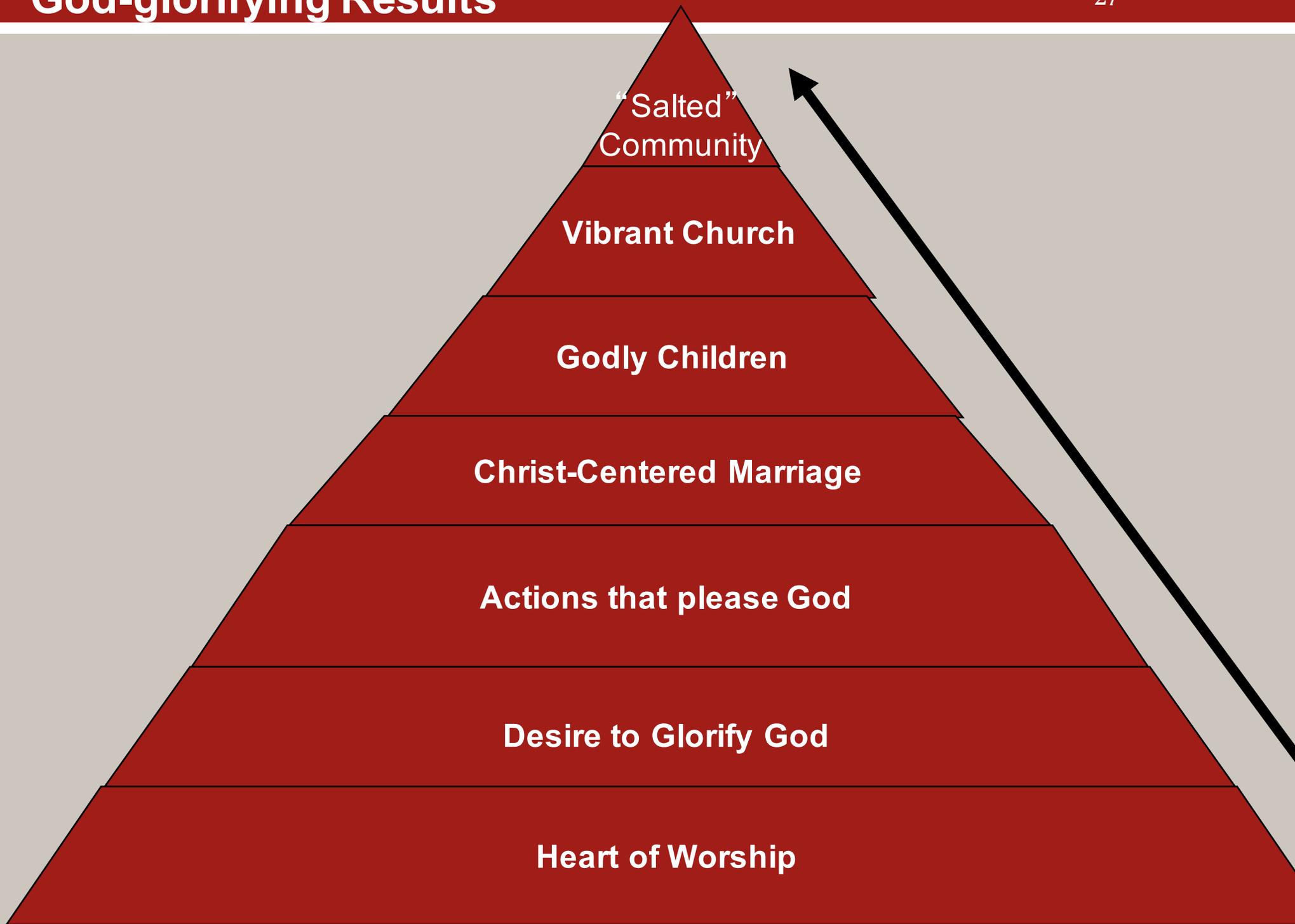
1. Not every wife is called to be a mother.
2. Mothers are called to first fulfill her role as wife, then seek to be godly mothers to their children.
3. Mothers must not abdicate their parental responsibilities to their husbands.
4. Mothers must fight the temptations to sin if/when their husbands don't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

Committed to Godly Children (Mt.28:19-20)

1. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, (Tit. 2:4)
2. Has not [the LORD] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. (Mal. 2:15a)
3. Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. (Pr. 1:8)
4. ⁷Impress 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

- Paying bills, dealing with the finances?
- Managing household maintenance?
- Emptying waste cans, taking out the garbage?
- Mowing grass? Shoveling snow?
- Who plans menus? Cooks the meals? Does the dishes?
- Who makes the bed? Who says how it's done?
- Who drives to church?
- 2-door, 4-door, mini-van, motorcycle?
- Vehicle maintenance?



Going Deeper

- *Excellent Wife*, Martha Peace
- *helper by design*, Elyse Fitzpatrick
- *A Woman After God's Own Heart*, Elizabeth George
- *Loving God with All Your Mind*, Elizabeth George