

Key Passages on the Woman's Responsibility to Yield to Her Husband

<p>Genesis 2:18</p> <p>And the LORD God said, "<i>It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.</i>"</p>	<p>Key Word: HELPER</p> <p><i>The idea of "helper" indicates that the woman is assigned the responsibility of following the man's lead, direction, and assisting him with his purpose, and finding her meaning in him. This is God's intentional design for the woman from the very beginning.</i></p>
<p>Genesis 3:16</p> <p>To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire <i>shall be</i> for your husband, And he shall rule over you."</p>	<p>Key Word: UNCHANGED</p> <p><i>Even after the fall, the woman's role continued to be focused on bearing children (motherhood) and helping her husband (wife). Unlike Adam, whose work was affected by sin (affirming his role and realm), God affirmed and reinforced the purpose of the woman in these homeward focused roles. Nothing regarding the woman's role because of sin. Her roles were not changed after the fall, but just became more difficult because of sin.</i></p>
<p>Psalms 127:3-5</p> <p>³ Behold, children <i>are</i> a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb <i>is</i> a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So <i>are</i> the children of one's youth. ⁵ Happy <i>is</i> the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.</p>	<p>Key Word: CHILDREN or MOTHERHOOD</p> <p><i>Children are a heritage of the Lord. The fruit of the womb is His reward. These two statements assume, affirm and elevate the woman's role as wife and mother. The woman is not mentioned, only implied, as she again finds her meaning in and with her husband. Her husband is happy because he has a quiver full of children, only possible with the wife's support, participation, and life-focus. Implied, too, is the woman's own fulfillment, excelling in the place and purpose designed for her by her Creator.</i></p>
<p>Proverbs 31:10-31</p> <p>¹⁰ Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth <i>is</i> far above rubies. ¹¹ The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. ¹² She does him good and not evil All the days of her life. ¹³ She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands. ¹⁴ She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar. ¹⁵ She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants. ¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷ She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms. ¹⁸ She perceives that her merchandise <i>is</i> good, And her lamp does not go out by night. ¹⁹ She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle. ²⁰ She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. ²¹ She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household <i>is</i> clothed with scarlet. ²² She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing <i>is</i> fine linen and purple. ²³ Her husband <i>is</i> known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land. ²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells <i>them</i>, And supplies sashes for the merchants. ²⁵ Strength and honor <i>are</i> her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come. ²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue <i>is</i> the law of kindness. ²⁷ She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸ Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband <i>also</i>, and he praises her: ²⁹ "Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all." ³⁰ Charm <i>is</i> deceitful and beauty <i>is</i> passing, But a woman <i>who</i> fears the LORD, she shall be praised. ³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.</p>	<p>Key Word: HOME</p> <p><i>Once again, the woman called "virtuous" by God is primarily focused on serving her husband and children, and ministering within and from the context of her home. She assists her husband through active, frugal and resourceful management, and she is described as doing so throughout her life (10-12). Her focus is also the care of her household (15, 21). Her behind-the-scenes efforts allow her husband to expand his service and influence into the community (23). She is a mother as well as a wife, and her highest human praise is seen to come from her children and husband (27-28). Fulfilling this God-designed lifestyle earns such a woman the highest commendation (29) and such a lifestyle is linked directly to the fear of the Lord. In fact, it is summarized as being synonymous with it (the fear of the Lord is living by His dictates, as opposed to our own, or the dictates of others.).</i></p>

<p>1 Corinthians 11:3-9</p> <p>³ But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman <i>is</i> man, and the head of Christ <i>is</i> God. ⁴ Every man praying or prophesying, having <i>his</i> head covered, dishonors his head. ⁵ But every woman who prays or prophesies with <i>her</i> head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved. ⁶ For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered. ⁷ For a man indeed ought not to cover <i>his</i> head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. ⁸ For man is not from woman, but woman from man. ⁹ Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.</p>	<p>Key Word: ORDER (or RANK or HIERARCHY)</p> <p><i>This passage is the clearest passage on the authority structure, God's intentional created order. It clearly indicates that authority and submission exist even within the Godhead (divine characteristics). The passage also clearly indicates that man* (as male) is placed over the woman, and is himself under Christ (man is to lead by the dictates of Christ, not by his own mind or methods). This passage also makes it clear that the man (male) is created in the image of God directly (the woman presumably indirectly as from and with the man), and that the woman is created for the man, not the other way around (both pertaining to God's design for each gender's purpose and function, NOT value). The gender roles are indicated by head coverings during prayer, and even in hair length, as outward acknowledgements of God-designed gender roles. (11:10-16).</i></p> <p><i>*Submit to man, but not to every man equally because either father or husband was over her always (think of the giving away of a bride in marriage). This is speaking in general terms, and assumes the broader context of family structure as revealed in Scripture.</i></p>
<p>Ephesians 5:22-24, 33</p> <p>²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in everything.</p> <p>³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects [her] husband.</p>	<p>Key Word: STANDARD (the measure)</p> <p><i>As part of a list of "submit to one another" relationships, wives fulfill their part by submitting to their own husbands (husbands "submit" by loving their wives). The word "submit in v. 22 is supplied, based upon the statement in v. 21 ("submitting to one another"). Wives are to submit "as to the Lord." The standard is not based upon the husband's worthiness (equally true of the husbands command to love their wives) but based upon how the church is to submit to Christ. To submit requires following the lead of another. It is placing oneself under the direction of another. Qualifiers include: "as to the Lord," "just as the church is subject to Christ," and "in everything." The husband is clearly stated to be the head of the wife "as also Christ is head of the church."</i></p>
<p>Colossians 3:18</p> <p>Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.</p>	<p>Key Word: COMMAND</p> <p><i>Here the concept in Ephesians 5 is given directly as a command, restated in a very brief format. Submitting is fitting in the Lord. It is a Christian virtue to submit as God assigns us those "following" roles within the home, church, work environment, community, government, and ultimately to God.</i></p>
<p>1 Timothy 2:8-15</p> <p>⁸ I desire therefore that the men [<i>this word only means adult males</i>] pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; ⁹ in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, ¹⁰ but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. ¹¹ Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. ¹² And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴ And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. ¹⁵ Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.</p>	<p>Key Concept: Motherhood is Eternal Ministry (v. 15)</p> <p><i>Verse 15 presents the ministry of motherhood as an eternal ministry. "Saved in childbearing" seems to relate to her purpose or ministry, not eternal salvation (as we are not saved by works of any type). Raising godly children IS ministry, and raising children that continue in faith, love, and holiness with self-control is more eternally impacting and (important) than any other ministry.</i></p> <p><i>"A mightier power and stronger Man from his throne has hurled, For the hand that rocks the cradle Is the hand that rules the world." [1865 W. R. Wallace in J. K. Hoyt Cyclopædia of Practical Quotations (1896) 402]</i></p>
<p>1 Timothy 5:9-10, 14</p>	<p>Key Word: SUMMARY</p>

<p>⁹ Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, <i>and not unless</i> she has been the wife of one man, ¹⁰ well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.</p> <p>¹⁴ Therefore I desire that <i>the</i> younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.</p>	<p><i>Here is the "Proverbs 31 Woman" of the New Testament Epistles. Presented is a list of what a godly widow looked like (as a prerequisite for being cared for by the church). The list involves marriage (and morality in marriage) and multiple good works: bringing up children, hospitality, serving believers (even in a menial way), caring for the sick or handicapped, and purposeful goodness. (Starkly missing is a career...)</i></p> <p><i>Verse 14 directs younger widows to marry, bear children, and manage the home (an exact reflection of Genesis!).</i></p>
<p>Titus 2:3-5 –</p> <p>³ the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things -- ⁴ that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ [to be] discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.</p>	<p>Key Words:</p>
<p>1 Peter 3:1-6 – Described and Exemplified</p> <p>¹ Wives, likewise, <i>be</i> submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, ² when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. ³ Do not let your adornment be <i>merely</i> outward-- arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on <i>fine</i> apparel--⁴ rather <i>let it be</i> the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. ⁵ For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.</p>	<p>Key Words: CONDUCT and EXAMPLE</p> <p><i>"Likewise" here points back to the slaves (who were to be submissive to both the good and the harsh masters) and to the example of Jesus Christ, who was wrongly treated but Who submitted to Pilate's authority (to the point of death!).</i></p> <p><i>Every act of human submission requires us to submit to imperfect, incomplete, and often sinful people. That scenario is clearly revealed here, where wives are to again submit to their own husbands, including those that do not obey the Word.</i></p> <p><i>Submission seems to include a quietness or silence rather than speaking up (as exemplified by Christ as well in 1 Peter 2 before Pilate). Wives can win their husbands "without a word," which then focuses on their submissive (following the husband's lead), quiet (gentle and quiet spirit) conduct.</i></p> <p><i>Sarah is given as a key example, who yielded to her imperfect and sometimes sinful husband on multiple occasions ("Say you are my sister..." and Hagar). She yielded to him anyway, and spoke to him with the title "lord" as in "master" (we might use "yes sir" today). Submission is possible, and here is proof.</i></p>

1. POSITION & PURPOSE – Helper, Mother, Homemaker (each assumes a role of helping the man in different ways)

Helper – to help is to give oneself to assist another, to follow another's passion and purpose. (Gen 2, 1 Cor 11)

A wife's submission to her husband really makes sense when one understands God's assigned and designed position and functions. People try to redefine this since the word "helper" is used of God also, but the context and supporting passages makes this clear.

A woman finds her God designed and assigned purpose in the man as helper to him, mother to his children, and manager of his home.

To ignore or reject God's design is to hinder the man ("it is not good for man to be alone") by removing his helper, and it is to distract the woman from the most eternally influential positions of all (motherhood).

This is reflected throughout Scripture. God chooses men to lead the home, government, church, and in the work place (since women are homemakers). Submission is reflected even within the Godhead! (1 Cor 11:3 – But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman [is] man, and the head of Christ [is] God.)

- **Genesis 2:18** – And the LORD God said, "[It is] not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." (ESV "I will make him a helper fit for him."; NASB "I will make him a helper suitable for him.")
- **1 Corinthians 11:9** – Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.

- **Genesis 3:16** – To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire [shall be] for your husband, And he shall rule over you."
 - **1 Timothy 5:9-10, 14** – ⁹ Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, [and not unless] she has been the wife of one man, ¹⁰ well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work. ¹⁴ Therefore I desire that [the] younger [widows] marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.
 - **Titus 2:3-5** – ³ the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things -- ⁴ that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ [to be] discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.
2. **PRINCIPLE** – Submit [Yourself] – God commands a woman to submit, to willfully choose to follow someone that God has placed over you, even though you likely disagree with the direction and/or the person has not himself earned the right to be followed.
- **Ephesians 5:22** – Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
 - **Colossians 3:18** – Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
 - **1 Peter 3:1** – Wives, likewise, [be] submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,
3. **PERSON** – To Your Own Husband – God directs a woman's submission to her own husband. (Prior to this, she is under her parents' authority, which we will cover soon.) This emphasis seems to eliminate submission relationships in the work force. Her focus is to help her husband be successful (as well as her family), not to seek her own ends.
- **Ephesians 5:22-24** – ²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in everything.
 - **Colossians 3:18** – Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
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 - **1 Peter 3:1** – Wives, likewise, [be] submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,
4. **PRACTICE** – Yielding as to the Lord, and Doing So with a Beautified Heart
- APPROACH (& ATTITUDE)** – Respect and yield to your husband as if you were yielding to the Lord, while trusting in the Lord. (cf. Rom 13:1-2)
- **Ephesians 5:22-24** – ²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in everything. ³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects [her] husband.
 - **Colossians 3:18** – Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
 - **1 Peter 3:5** – For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,
- ADORNMENT (Chaste Conduct, Inner Beauty, Gentle & Quiet Spirit)**
- **1 Peter 3:1-5** – ¹ Wives, likewise, [be] submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, ² when they observe your chaste conduct [accompanied] by fear. ³ Do not let your adornment be [merely] outward-- arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on [fine] apparel--⁴ rather [let it be] the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible [beauty] of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. ⁵ For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,
5. **PATTERN** – This Is Doable (Others Have Succeeded!)

- **Sarah to imperfect Abraham**
1 Peter 3:5-6 – ⁵ For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.
 - **Jesus to the Father**
 - **Hannah to Elkanah, etc.**
6. **PICTURE – Profound Impact** – A Biblical marriage with husband and wife fulfilling their God-designed roles is a display to the world and to those within the church. To reject God’s design brings evil speaking on the Word!
- **Ephesians 5:22-33** – ²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so [let] the wives be to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord [does] the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects [her] husband.
 - **Titus 2:3-5** – ³ the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things -- ⁴ that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ [to be] discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

NOT INCLUDED:

FOCUS ON HELPING YOUR HUSBAND

- **Genesis 2:18** – And the LORD God said, "[It is] not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." (ESV "I will make him a helper fit for him."; NASB "I will make him a helper suitable for him.")

SEE MOTHERHOOD AS A BLESSING AND ETERNITY-FOCUSED MINISTRY

SEE HOMEMAKING AS GOD’S DESIGN FOR AN ENABLED HUSBAND, STRONG FAMILY, AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Meek & quiet (w/o a word) – conduct

Embrace the privilege of God’s design for womanhood in marriage, motherhood, and management of the home (which includes ministry from the home)

Educate others in the Word.

Encourage others to

Follow his lead

- Because of **God’s Designed Plan**
- Because of **Man’s Assigned Position (as Leader)**
- Because of **Marriage’s Eternal Portrayal (Displays Christ and the Church)**