

The Godly Wife as A Wife

A Fit Helper for Him: Follow the Leader

Whenever some women hear or read the phrase “wives submit yourselves” they immediately suspect God of favoritism towards men and of great injustice towards women! They are sure God could never have had submission in mind when He said, ‘I know the thoughts that I think concerning you,...thoughts of peace and not of hurt, to give you a future and a hope.’ (Jeremiah 29:11 Berkeley)

Many women do not understand what submission really means nor that God requires it of us in order to bless us and enrich our lives.

Teacher, pray that women will realize God is trustworthy and will not require anything of us that is not for our good and blessing. Pray their hearts will be open to understand submission from God’s point of view and to practice it in love.

A. Object of the Lesson

1. To understand the role of the husband and wife.
2. To understand the importance of submission and the “cement” of love.
3. To be motivated to fulfill their role as a wife, in sub. mission and love.

B. Discussion Questions

1. What new or perhaps forgotten thought did you learn about the role of the husband? The role of the wife?
2. What did you decide the phrase “being a helper fit for him” means? (Proper, right kind of helper, completing him)
3. How would you answer someone who says, “it just won’t work, because my husband does not in any way fulfill his role.” (This does not alter your need to fulfill your role. You cannot change another but you can change yourself. It is a matter of obedience or disobedience)
4. Eph. 5:24 says a wife is to submit to her husband in *everything* - What if he asks her to lie, cheat, commit immorality, etc? Are there limits to submission? If so, how do we determine these limits? (These are generally hypothetical questions – “What if?” It is important to ask two questions (a) “As a part of your wholehearted, loving submission to God, have you been living in daily submission to your husband?” (If not, then a wife is not operating by God’s chain of command and is out from under God’s umbrella of protection which He has provided through her husband. She cannot blame God for wrong done to her or expect Him to take responsibility for her in this situation) (b) “Has your husband ever actually required or *commanded* you to do something wrong”? I have never heard of a case where a woman is daily submitting to her husband out of love and reverence to God where the husband actually commanded her to do something morally wrong. If there was such an actual case involving a clear moral issue, then God is the wife’s higher authority. The wife needs to understand God is for her, He loves her, and is trustworthy. His commands are not conflicting. God never gives two commands impossible to

obey. If a woman wholeheartedly follows the Scriptures God will never make her have to choose between two wrongs.)

5. What are some ways you think a wife can be a “competitor” instead of “completer?” (Spiritual activities, job, taking charge of finances, sarcasm, making decisions, dominating the conversation)

6. What does Eph. 5:22 say should be a wife’s attitude in submission? (Do it as *unto the Lord*. It really has more to do with our vertical relationship to the Lord than our horizontal relationship to our husband. Remember God calls us to submit to the *position* not the personality of our husbands.)

7. I Peter 3:1 in J. B. Phillips translation says a wife is to “fit in with her husband’s plans.” What does this involve for you personally?

8. Let’s read Proverbs 31:11,12 in several translations. What does it mean to you to be “trustworthy?” What does it mean to “richly satisfy his needs?” (The Amplified Bible says, “He will have no lack of honest gain, or need for dishonest spoil.” If his needs for love, affection, companionship, sex, conversation, admiration, etc. are being adequately met at home, he will not seek these through “dishonest spoil.”)

9. What definition of submission did you find that you liked best?

10. How did you answer #6

11. Why is it sometimes hard for a wife to be submissive? (Self-will, “I’m right,” it looks like being submissive would lead to disaster, he’s not capable of leading, etc.)

12. Can a wife be submissive and still have a rebellious heart. (Yes—as far as the outward “act” of submission—but not as far as true submission, which is an *attitude* of the heart. When submission is an act it requires much discipline and self-control. It is very hard to do. But not so when it is an *attitude* of the heart.)

13. Does submission mean a wife never thinks for herself, never has an opinion, never makes a decision? (No, a wife should tell her husband how she feels, what she thinks about an issue and then commit the situation and the outcome to God, trust God and obey her husband. Submission does not mean that you always agree but you always yield. There are many decisions a husband wants his wife to make. These she should make as part of being submissive - *unless* it would clearly be against God’s pattern for the role of the husband and the role of the wife.)

14. Would the way in which one wife supports her husband differ from the way another wife would support her husband? Explain.

15. How would you say two people “fall in love,” or grow to love one another? (Usually the first step in a man and woman becoming interested in one another is: (a) *Awareness* - out of which comes (b) *Respect* - from which grows (c) *Admiration* - from which comes (d) *Love*.) Then how do two people fall “out of love” - or how does love grow cold and die between two people? (The cycle simply reverts unless something is done to maintain it. Love reverts to less admiration, less respect, etc.)

16. What is the source of the love described in I Corinthians 13?

17. Share your definition of love. (Teacher, you perhaps will want to share the definition given by Donald Grey Barnhouse as the end of Chapter 12).

C. Suggestions for Conclusions

1. Take 5-10 minutes to allow each one to think through the following questions, jot their thoughts down and pray over them:

a. In what ways am I making it easier for my husband to be the leader?

b. In what ways am I making it difficult for him to be the leader?

2. Have each one write out a “Prayer of Commitment” regarding submission to her husband.

3. Use John 7:17 and John 13:17 as thought conditioners before prayer.

D. Additional Scriptures

Proverbs 21:1; I John 3:18 (LB); I Peter 4:8; Proverbs 11:2 (Amp.); Ephesians 4:32

E. Possible Projects

1. Take 2 pieces of paper and write the following at the top: Page 1—front—”My needs as I see them.” Back—”My needs as he sees them.” Page 2—front—”His needs as I see them.” Back—His needs as he sees them.” Fill out the front side and ask him to fill out the back without looking at your side. Then compare. It is amazing how little we realize what our mate considers a real need!

2. Jot down requests of your husband you feel you can’t or you don’t obey. Is there a trend? Perhaps there is an area in which you are not willing to allow him to lead? (Example: children, finances, etc.)

F. Extra Help

Me? Obey Him? by Elizabeth R. Handford
The Greatest Thing in the World by Henry Drummond
Learning to be a Woman by Kenneth G. Smith
Essays on Love by Walter Trobisch
Audio 1020 - “Woman’s Place in Marriage”
Audio 1810 - “God’s Order for Wives”
Audio 245 - “The Godly Woman”