

Fruitful Vine in your Home

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I. Introduction.

- A. A husband and wife is a neat arrangement. (2 Corinthians 4:1)
- B. The maintaining of a meaningful, happy marriage is top priority in God's heart. Marriage was the first institution that God established.
- C. Marriage in the home is under attack today.

II. Satan attacks marriages today. (1 Corinthians 10:12)

- A. He appeals to our vanity.
- B. He says that an extra-marital relationship is more exciting.
- C. He says that the Bible is outdated.
- D. He divides the home. We can divide the home by being too busy with good things.
- E. He confuses us about our proper role in marriage.

III. The supporting role.

- A. Women are to acknowledge the role of their husbands as heads. Women are to complete as help-mates and not compete. (Ephesians 5:22-25; Genesis 2:18)
- B. Wives are to be submissive.
 - 1. This is a foundation role.
 - 2. This is not a matter of inferiority or second class status. It is a matter of different role. Women are equal coheirs.
 - 3. Why wives should submit.
 - a. Wives prevent husbands from disobeying God when they are not submissive.
 - b. Wives must also submit to obey God's will for them.
 - c. Wives must do this as a service unto the Lord. (Ephesians 5:22; Titus 2:5)
 - d. A wife's submission to her husband reflects her submission to God. (Titus 2:5)
- C. Wives should accept husbands they way they are.
 - 1. Wives must give up their self-righteous attitude.
 - 2. Wives must look to their husbands' better sides.

3. Wives should not compare their husbands unfavorably.
4. Wives should express their acceptance of their husbands.
5. Wives should express interest in their husbands. Self-centeredness keeps them from this. Husbands are wounded by indifference.

D. Wives ought to encourage and support their husbands in every way.

1. Wives need to listen to their husbands and give them their undivided attention. (Proverbs 31:12; 1 Corinthians 13:7)

2. Wives need to treat husbands as they ought to be instead of as they are.

E. Wives should pray for their husbands with wisdom and insight.

F. Wives should keep their husbands second only to the Lord.

IV. The loving companion role.

A. Wives should not nag. (Proverbs 21:9)

B. They should not be negative and critical. (Proverbs 12:25; Philippians 4:8)

C. They should not be dream busters. (Proverbs 14:1)

D. They should not be filled with self-pity and complaining. (Jude 16)

E. They should not talk too much or correct their husbands too much. (Proverbs 21:11; 18:2)

F. They should let matters die. (Proverbs 17:9)

G. They should watch out for bitterness. (Hebrews 12:15)

H. They should not have a defensive spirit.

I. They should work at being sweet-hearts.

J. They need to reverence and respect their husbands. (Ephesians 5:33)

K. They need to admire their husbands.

L. They should not be ceaseless chatterers.

M. They should keep themselves attractive.

V. The loving sex-partner role

A. The right attitude is important. Recognize that intercourse is good. (James 1:17; Hebrews 13:4; Genesis 18:12)

B. The only taboo regarding sex is that which is outside marriage. (1 Corinthians 6:15-20)

- C. Sex should not be used as a weapon or a reward. (1 Corinthians 7:3-5)
- D. Foreplay is for our benefit. Anything is permissible as long it is not offensive to one party.
- E. Your mind is your greatest sexual organ. (Proverbs 31:11)

Application questions:

1. How would you explain the topic of submission to a wife struggling with the idea?

2. What are some misconceptions about the role of the wife that Christians must overcome?

3. What are some ways you can grow to love your husband better? Explain.
