

ROLES

Session 2A

“And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of His body, the church. As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up His life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s Word. He did this to present her to Himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. And we are members of His body. As the Scripture says, ‘A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”

— Ephesians 5:21-33 (NLT)

1. Gender roles are God’s idea. He uniquely and systematically designed men and women _____.
2. Instead of men and women being independent, God intended _____.
3. Based on the passage above, what must a husband give his wife? _____.
(re: give, care, self-sacrifice, lead — a wife’s greatest need is to be loved and cared for)
4. Based on the passage above, what must a wife give her husband? _____.
(re: trust, follow and submit — a husband’s greatest need is to be respected and followed)

“The Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.’”

— Genesis 2:18

- I. **Foundation: God created _____ within a marriage.**
 - a. The first thing God ever shared about Eve was what her role was to be.
 - b. God created Eve’s role _____ the fall. Therefore, her role must be good.
 - c. **Our acceptance of our roles in marriage comes from faith in God’s character and wisdom, and not in how well roles fit within our culture.**

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. **I will make a helper suitable for him.**”

-Genesis 2:18

- i. God is all-knowing. — Psalm 147:5
- ii. God is our provider. — Genesis 22:14
- iii. God is good. — Habakkuk 1:13
- iv. God wants what is best for us. — Jeremiah 29:11
- v. God created marriage. — Genesis 2:18
- vi. God hates divorce. — Malachi 2:16
- vii. God has a plan for your marriage to work. — Genesis 2:24
- viii. God’s plan for marriage is the best plan for marriage. — Jeremiah 29:11

- d. Satan will try to deceive us into believing that God doesn't have the best for us, but ultimately Satan is a thief who wants to break in and destroy. This becomes clear as we witness more people continually following ways other than God's.
 - i. Satan doesn't have good plans for us. He steals, kills and destroys. (*John 10:10*)
 - ii. Satan's goals thrive on _____ — rejection of God.
 - 1. Rejection of God's plan for marriage to pursue selfishness (more money, power, possessions, etc.) has destroyed true feminine identity, and has resulted in categorizing a biblical view of women as merely sexual creatures or slaves at home.
 - 2. Rejection of God's plan for marriage to pursue selfishness has destroyed true masculine identity ultimately categorizing men as self-centered, inconsiderate, sexually driven dopes.

Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. — Titus 2:4-5

II. The Woman's Primary Role:

- a. A woman's primary role is _____ to submit!

Submission is not a role; rather it is a _____ to the husband's role.

"Then He (God) said to the woman, '...and though your desire will be for your husband (desire to control your husband) he will be your master.'" — Genesis 3:16

"But there is one thing I want you to know: A man is responsible to Christ, a woman is responsible to her husband and Christ is responsible to God." — 1 Corinthians 11:3

"In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands, even those who refuse to accept the Good News. Your godly lives will speak to them better than any words. They will be won over by watching your pure godly behavior." — 1 Peter 3:1-2

"Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the Word of God." — Titus 2:4-5

Webster's Dictionary: **Submit** — to surrender; commit to the decision or judgment of another

Women (and their roles) are to be treated with tremendous respect and honor.

A husband's response should be _____ and _____.

"Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers." — 1 Peter 3:7

The weaker vessel — "weaker" comes from the Greek word *asthenes* which is used to describe fragile objects worthy of special treatment (e.g. fine china, etc.).

God created the wife to be a _____ for her husband.

*"It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a **companion** who will **help** him."* — Genesis 2:18 NLT

*". . . I will make a **helper suitable** for him."* Genesis 2:18 NIV

Help — make it easier for someone; something that one person can't do alone

Suitable — appropriate for a particular purpose

*". . . and let the wife see that she **respects** and **reverences** her husband — that she notices him, **regards** him, and **honors** him. **Prefers** him **venerates** and **esteems** him, and that she **defers** to him, **praises** him and **loves** and **admires** him exceedingly."* — Ephesians 5:33b Amplified

A wife's role and responsibility as a helper is to _____ and _____ her husband, to _____ and _____ him, and to _____ and _____ to him.

A wife's special purpose: To _____/_____ her husband's role as a leader and then be the _____ to help him be the best that he can be in his role.

1. Helpers _____: The best way for a wife to show respect to her husband is to be _____.

"Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life." — Proverbs 31:11

2. Helpers _____: Esteem him with words. Build him up.

*"A worthy wife is her husband's joy and crown; **a shameful wife saps his strength.**"* — Proverbs 12:4

NOTE: Wives are capable of " _____ " their husband's strength.

"In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands, even those who refuse to accept the Good News. Your godly lives will speak to them better than any words. They will be won over by watching your pure, godly behavior." — 1 Peter 3:1-2

3. Helpers are _____ - _____: She focuses her effort and is busy in the home (especially when she becomes a mother).

"The younger women may learn to love their husbands and their children, to be sensible and chaste, home-lovers, kind-hearted and willing to adapt themselves to their husbands." — Titus 2:4-6

4. Helpers trust God and _____:

*"Charm is deceptive; and beauty does not last, **but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised.**"* — Proverbs 31:30

*"That is the way the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. **They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands.** For instance Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, when she called him her master. **You are her daughters when you do what is right without fear of what your husbands might do.**"* — 1 Peter 3:5

*"So, if you are suffering according to God's will, **keep on doing what is right, and trust yourself to the God who made you, for He will never fail you.**"* — 1 Peter 4:19

“A wise woman builds her house, a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands.”
— Proverbs 14:1

Recommended Readings:

- *Creative Counterpart* — Linda Dillow
- *Created to Be His Helpmeet* — Debi Pearl

III. **The Man’s Primary Role:** _____

“For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,” - Ephesians 5:23-26

- i. The establishment of roles and responsibilities is basic to society. Any group or team is strengthened when everyone lives within his or her role.
- ii. Living within our roles, more accurately reflects the Godhead.
“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created Him; male and female He created them.” — Genesis 1:27

Four leadership scenarios:

a. The wife emerges as leader.

iii. Why? She sees her husband as _____ of leading.

1. Either because of patterns in her home growing up, or
2. Because of perceived shortcomings in her husband.

iv. Result?

1. Loss of _____ for her husband because she no longer looks to him for family direction or security.
2. _____, because the husband does not want to take responsibility for the home.

The women added, “When we burned incense to the Queen of Heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did not our husbands know that we were making cakes like her image and pouring out drink offerings to her?”
Jeremiah 44:19

b. No one emerges as a clear leader, yet each will refuse to yield to the other.

- i. Why? Because each desires to be in control. They are afraid of what would happen if they yielded control.
- ii. Result? Continual power struggles.

- c. The husband emerges as leader under _____ authority.
 - i. Why? Taking ownership of his home and family, he will dominate them to shape the home in to what seems best in his eyes.
 - ii. Result? The father has controlling relationships with the family and family members may develop dishonest relationships with the father.
- d. The husband will emerge as the leader under _____ authority.
 - i. Why?
 - 1. Both he and his wife feel that God has given him ultimate responsibility for the welfare of the family.
 - 2. They see this coming from fundamental roles rooted in the Bible.
 - ii. Result?
 - 1. Because both husband and wife are submitting to God-given responsibilities to please God, the results will be:
 - a. unselfish
 - b. Christlike
 - c. full of the fruit of the Spirit (*Galatians 5:22-23*)
 - 2. Family life will be generally harmonious.

The fundamental aspect of a Christian husband's headship: _____

"For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her."

— Ephesians 5:33

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!"

— Philipians 2:5-8

Four important functions for the husband to fulfill in his family:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

**COUPLE'S PROJECT
SESSION 2A
Inventory of Role Expectations**

1-Strongly agree 2-Mildly agree 3-Not sure 4-Mildly disagree 5-Strongly disagree

<u>Wife</u>		<u>Husband</u>
1 2 3 4 5	The husband is the head of the home.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	The wife should not be employed outside of the home.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	The husband should help regularly with the dishes.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	The wife has the greater responsibility for the children.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	The wife should always be the one to cook.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	The husband's responsibility is to his job and the wife's responsibility is to the home and children.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	Major decisions should be made by the husband in case of an impasse.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	The husband should babysit one night a week so the wife can get away and do what she wants.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	A couple should spend their leisure activities with one another.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	It is all right for the wife to initiate lovemaking with her husband.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	The husband and wife should plan the budget and manage money matters together.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	The father is the one responsible for disciplining the children.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	It is the wife's responsibility to have the house neat and clean.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	The husband should take his wife out once a week.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	The wife is just as responsible for the children's discipline as the husband.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	It is the husband's job to do the yard work.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	The mother should be the teacher of values to the children.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	Children should be allowed to help plan family activities.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	Children develop better in a home with parents who are strict disciplinarians.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	The wife should always obey what her husband asks her to do.	1 2 3 4 5