

## Defining a Wife's Role

- Helper
  - Involves being a willing follower in a vigorous, robust, feminine way that comes alongside a husband as a partner. (Not a mindless/just go through the motions way).
  - Genesis 2:18--“The Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.’” The animals were helpers they were just not suitable.
- Respect
  - Ephesians 5:33: Wives are called to respect their husbands: “. . . each husband must love his wife and **the wife must respect her husband.**”
  - There is not a more powerful attitude that a wife can have toward her husband. Respect comes from the Greek word, phobeo, which means to be in awe of, to revere. (The husband is highly valued).
  - Respect is shown with actions and words and it should flow from the heart. (Proverbs 14:1)
- Encourager/Cheerleader/Admiration
  - Cheering him to be the leader of the family
  - Husbands deepest fear is failure and their deepest need is the confidence to know they can succeed. Thank him and tell him how you appreciate him.
  - Even when a husband makes mistakes, he needs encouragement for trying. When he fails, say, “Anybody can make a mistake. What can I do to help you fix it?” Instead of saying, “I told you so.”
  - Assist in developing spiritual growth in your husband
    - Ask your husband spiritual questions
    - Teach your family biblical truths
    - Participate in family prayer
    - Initiate family prayer when husband is absent
    - Pray for husband

- Recreational Companionship
  - Find something to do together. The wife’s purpose in participating or attending an event is not necessarily to enjoy but to show love in meeting her husband’s needs
- Submitting
  - God’s role for the husband is to lead. A wife is certainly competent to lead and make good decisions, but she should not take this responsibility from her husband as outlined in Scriptures.
  - God intended the wife to allow her husband to make the final decisions when needed. Titus 2:4-5--“Encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.”
  - Christ modeled submission. Philippians 2: 5-11 “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! Therefore, God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him a name that is above every name, that name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”

**The Family Manifesto for Wives:** Written by Family Life

“We believe God has charged each wife to fulfill the responsibility of being her husband’s **“helper.”** We believe a wife will give an account to God for how she has loved, respected, and given support to her husband. We uphold the biblical truth that she is of equal value with her husband before God. We reject the notion that a wife should assume the leadership responsibilities of her husband. Likewise, we reject the notion that a wife should passively defer to the dominance of her husband. We believe that her responsibility is to willingly and intelligently affirm, respect, and submit to her husband as the leader in the relationship and in his vocational calling. Therefore, we are committed to exhorting a wife to be in support of her husband by accepting and excelling in her responsibility as his helper (Genesis 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1-6; Proverbs 31:10-12).”

## **What is Biblical Submission?**

1. Women do not have to submit to anything abusive or immoral. Example: A husband should not ask his wife to sign a false tax return.
2. Submission is not a threatening force that hangs over a marriage. It should be a thoughtful, fruitful discussion about all areas of life.
3. Submission is powerful because it operates on pure faith. The act of submitting says, "I believe that God sees all, hears all, knows all, and He will intervene on my behalf." The wife decides to implement the principle in her life. She chooses to submit by faith.
4. Submission yields to her husband's final decision because that is what God's Word teaches, and she will learn how power is released when she does. The wife should not say to her husband, "I will not submit to your final authority if you do not love me as Christ loved the church."
5. Submission will help a husband to grow spiritually. When he does not have to struggle with his wife, his relationship with God will be stronger.
6. Submission is a wife knowing that no one is perfect and forgives her husband's mistake. This can bond a couple and make the relationship even more cherished.

## **What If Your Husband Does Not Lead?**

1. Do not nag. Love him for who he is. Remember he is God's gift to you!
2. Pray for him. Ask God to give him wisdom and guide him to perform God's will for his life.
3. Give him grace and forgiveness and know that he will not obey God perfectly every time.
4. Do not tear him down for who he is not and what he does not do. Build him up, even when you think he does not deserve it.
5. Do not listen to ungodly counsel that tell you to quit. Surround yourself with Christians who will encourage you to fulfill your marriage vows.
6. Pray that your husband will be surrounded by godly Christians who will love him and share with him what he needs to hear. (Don't do it yourself—Let God do it!)