

- I. Introduction – A godly wife HONORS her husband.
- II. Hold fast to the subordinate role to which God has called you.
  - A. Many are offended at what Scripture teaches about the wife’s role in marriage.
  - B. God designed marriage to be a partnership in which the wife follows her husband’s leadership. Gen. 2:18 1 Ti. 2:13-14 1 Cor. 11:8-9
  - C. We do not have the right to redefine the gender roles established by God. Is. 40:8 2 Tim. 3:16-17 2 Pe. 1:20-21
  - D. Many objections to submission stem from an unbiblical concept of equality and significance.
    1. Submission does not imply inferiority of personhood. 1 Co. 11:3 1 Pe. 3:7 Gal. 3:28 Luke 2:51
    2. God has established order and authority in many relationships. Eph. 6:1,5 Rom. 13:1ff 1 Tim. 2:9 3:1 5:17 1 Pe. 2:13,18 5:5 Heb. 13:17
    3. One does not have to be in charge in order to be great. Mt. 20:25-28
    4. The serving role of the wife is Christlike. Mark 10:45
  - E. The biblical teaching on submission is misunderstood.
  - F. If you don’t want to submit, don’t get married.
- III. Obey your husband’s leadership for Jesus’ sake. Eph. 5:22-24 Col. 3:18 Titus 2:5
  - A. Recognize that God has made your husband the head of your family. Eph. 5:22
  - B. Your submission is to be comprehensive. Eph. 5:24
  - C. Submission involves more than merely obeying commands.
  - D. The real test of submission is when you disagree with him.
  - E. Follow his leadership without fear (because you trust God). 1 Pe. 3:5-6
  - F. Don’t usurp his headship. Gen. 3:16 4:7
  - G. Your attitude is as important as your actions – respect and grace. Eph. 5:33b  
Pr. 12:4 14:1
  - H. You will either honor or dishonor the Lord by how you treat your husband. Titus 2:5
  - I. Submission is an act of faith in God. Pr. 3:5-6
- IV. Notice how you can do him good as his helper. Gen. 2:18 Pr. 31:10-12,23
  - A. God designed you to complete him in every way. Gen. 2:18 Pr. 17:17 5:15-20  
Help him in other ways in which he is weak.
  - B. Help your husband to succeed in his vocation and ministry. Pr. 31:23
  - C. Use your influence over him for good (not evil). Pr. 31:11-12 14:1 Gen. 3:6 16:2
  - D. Be his trusted counselor. Pr. 31:26
  - E. Gently restore him when he strays from the Lord. Gal. 6:1 Pr. 25:11  
Submission does not mean silence, unless your husband is disobedient and makes it clear that he doesn’t want to hear from you. 1 Pet. 3:1-2
  - F. Pray for him. And for yourself.
- V. Organize your life around your responsibilities at home. Titus 2:3-5
  - A. Your husband and children come first. 31:27 Titus 2:3-5
  - B. The calling of homemaker is a high calling. 31:27
  - C. This does not mean that a wife cannot make a financial contribution to the family.  
Pr. 31:16-19,24
  - D. What should a wife do when her children are grown up? Titus 2:3-5 Pr. 31:20

- VI. Restore your husband when he strays from the Lord. 1 Pet. 3:1-2 1 Co. 7:13
- A. Many wives suffer under the authority of disobedient (or unbelieving) husbands.
  - B. You are to act “in the same way” that Jesus did when He was under unjust authority. 1 Pet. 3:1a 2:21-25
  - C. Overcome the temptation to nag (revile) your husband by entrusting yourself (and your children) to God. 1 Pe. 2:23 3:6 Pr. 14:1 25:24 1 Co. 7:14b
  - D. Instead, quietly try to win him by treating him better than he deserves. 1 Pe. 3:2-5 Ro. 12:21
  - E. Many wives fail at this because they make an idol of their marriage. Jer. 17:5-8
  - F. Peter is not saying that a wife must always be silent when her husband is wrong. Prov. 9:8 31:11-12,23,26 Gal. 6:1 Mt. 18:15ff
- VII. Submission is not absolute. Acts 5:29 Mt. 18:15ff Gal. 6:1ff
- A. No husband has the right to command his wife to sin or to go against her conscience. Acts 5:29 Ro. 14:23 Heb. 10:25 13:17 Eph. 4:25
  - B. Wives are not obligated to endure physical abuse, abandonment or marital unfaithfulness. Mt. 19:9 1 Co. 7:15
  - C. A wife has the right to confront her husband’s sins using the process outlined in Scripture. Mt. 18:15-20
  - D. What if your husband is passive and won’t lead?
    1. Why don’t husbands lead?
    2. Don’t judge him. Ro. 15:7
    3. Show him grace. Eph. 4:31-32
    4. Encourage him when he tries to lead.
    5. You can have joy in the Lord, even if your husband doesn’t change. Isa. 40:28-31
    6. Overcome loneliness through your relationship with the Lord and with other godly women.
    7. Don’t make an idol of your expectation of a perfect marriage. Js. 4:1ff Jer. 17:5-8
    8. The amazing example of Abigail. 1 Sam. 25
- VIII. Conclusion.
- A. A word to the wives.
  - B. A word to single women.
  - C. A word to single men. Pr. 31:30
  - D. A word to husbands. 1 Pe. 3:7 Pr. 31:28-31

#### Discussion questions

1. When did male headship and female submission in marriage originate?
2. How does the Fall affect marriage roles?
3. How does the gospel transform marriage roles?
4. What are some limits to submission?
5. Does submission mean that a wife can never correct her husband? Explain your answer.
6. What can a wife do when her husband won’t lead?
7. How is submission much more than merely following orders?