

Leadership in the Home

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Course description: Wives Part 1

This course continues to explore the importance of leadership in the home. In our lesson today, we focus on the role of the Christian wife. The relationship between the husband and wife in the Bible compares to the relationship between Christ and His church (Ephesians 5:21-33). We may not always think in terms of leadership when we look at the role of the wife in the home. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Her role provides incredible influence on her husband and their children.

Course Objectives: By the end of this class students will have:

- A. Studied three passages related to the role and responsibilities of the wife in the home.
- B. Listed at least five responsibilities associated with the role of the wife in the home.
- C. Discussed what these responsibilities mean for the success of the home.

Outline of the class:

- A. Divide the class into groups of 3 or 4 and ask the first group to read Genesis 2; ask a second group to read Ephesians 5:21-33; ask a third group to read 1 Peter 3:1-7. Ask the groups to list the responsibilities of the wife in the home. Additionally, ask each group to write out what they believe these responsibilities mean. Give the groups 10-15 minutes to work on this task.
- B. After each group completes the task, ask each group to share the list from what they learned in their assigned passage. Keep a list on the whiteboard to refer to throughout the class. Below are some suggestions to use if they are not shared by the groups.
 - 1. Helpmate for her husband. She comes alongside her husband to help, to assist, to meet his needs.
 - 2. Submission to her husband. When this is given by one of the groups, spend time discussing what exactly this means.
 - a. She is to be in subjection to her husband as to the Lord. This implies the privilege of being protected and sustained by the husband. We accept by faith that this is a divine arrangement that is good for a woman.
 - b. This is not a position of slavery. It does not mean that she cannot express her opinions. On the contrary, it is their duty to share with her husband, so he can have all the information needed to make the wisest decision in love.

- c. Submission is an inner attitude. The idea is voluntarily yielding one's will to the will of another. This attitude not only allows her husband to be the head of the household, her heart is involved in helping her husband properly fulfill his God-given responsibility.
 - d. The submission of women is not opinion or cultural custom. It is based on the order of creation and the divine plan according to the infinite wisdom of our Creator.
 - e. This does not imply any spiritual inferiority (see Genesis 1:27-28 and Galatians 3:28).
 - f. Christ was not inferior to the Father, nor is the wife to the husband.
 - g. Submission in the secular world does not mean one has less value than the boss, the roles are different. In every organization, someone has to take responsibility for decisions. In the marital relationship, God gave it to her husband. No organization can function properly with two heads.
 - h. The consequences that occur if the wife refuses to submit to her husband are always negative and sometimes tragic.
 - i. Men can become stubborn, moody, and obstinate in their own will.
 - ii. Men may subject themselves to women to maintain peace, but inside feel resentment and bitterness toward her in his heart.
 - iii. Children also suffer emotional distress and confusion as to the role, because of men and women in the home. This is often times reflected in the lives of those who choose homosexuality (confusion over the role of men and women in the home).
 - i. Remember, there is a difference between "role" and "worth." The roles designed by God are different, but our value in the eyes of God is the same. Also, even though the roles are different, it does not mean that one role is superior and the other inferior in any way.
3. Respect her husband. The idea behind this involves esteem. She is to esteem him, build him up and encourage him.
4. Demonstrate chaste and respectful behavior.
- a. Chaste behavior has to do with innocence, pure, blameless, modest. The word here is one that is related to holy, thus set apart for the specific role God designed for her in the home.
 - b. Respectful behavior involves a moral sense, honor, and respect. The word comes from the word translated fear, but used in the relationship of the husband wife, it carries the idea of reverence and respect.

5. Adorn herself with the quiet and gentle spirit.
 - a. One of the most significant words in this study is the word “adorn.” The idea behind this word is to “add beauty by decoration.”
 - b. The idea is to avoid adding beauty by physical decoration. Instead, it should be the hidden decoration of the heart, the quiet and gentle spirit.
 - c. While we all appreciate and value physical beauty, we know that beauty is truly in the eyes of the beholder. Peter’s point is that wives should not be focused on adding exterior elements but allow her beauty to be seen from the inside out.
- C. As we discussed in the previous lessons, the responsibilities given by God are not contingent on the other person fulfilling their role. The wife has a responsibility regardless of whether the husband fulfills his role or not. Keep in mind 1 Peter 3:1.

Conclusion:

- A. When husbands understand the responsibilities of the wife in the home, it makes for a better and stronger relationship.
- B. The areas we’ve discussed today are foundational components of what God designed for the wife in the texts of Genesis 2, Ephesians 5, and 1 Peter 3. Study these further and discuss them with your wives at home, in order to provide for the best of what God intended for the home.
- C. Next week’s lesson continues to discuss areas related to the role of the wife in the home.