

THE BIBLICAL DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE
Part 8
The Roles In Marriage
(The Woman: The Terms of a Woman)
Gen. 2:20-25

INTRODUCTION

God has a plan for women that differs from the plan that the world has for women. Women in the world have been deceived as to believe that all of life is about them. They believe that every decision and every action should be taken for their benefit only. A recent columnist in the Huffington Post articulated this view in writing about her grandmother's view of a woman. The author wrote:

"I recently interviewed (grandma) about her perspective on the definition of woman. "Well, Brianna," (this is how she begins all of her thoughts when speaking to me), "We're all females when we are born. But not all of us turn into women. Being a woman is defined by your accomplishments, whatever those look like to you." Mama Seeley instilled in me the belief that I cannot depend on anyone else to make my dreams come true." -- Bri Seeley, Huffington Post

God's plan for women, as seen in Scripture, is much different. Like Eve, the women of the world have fallen for the lie, that God's plan and purposes holds a woman back. The truth, however, is that God's plan and purposes provide for His glory and for that which is beneficial. Over the next several weeks we will delve into what the Bible says about women and their role in the marriage relationship.

- I. THE SECOND PERSON DESCRIBED BY SCRIPTURE IN A MARRIAGE IS THE WOMAN.
 - A. The term "woman" is described by several words in Scripture.
 1. The predominant Hebrew term is ishshah which describes "a female, of any age or condition, married or unmarried." Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies.
 - a) Ishshah is used in a derogatory manner of a nation that is fearful. Is. 19:16 (Egypt); Jer. 51:30 (Babylon); Nah. 3:13
 - b) The articular use of ishshah is used with reference to Eve. cf. Gen. 3:2,6, 13, 15

2. The word neqebah is used to distinguish a woman from a man -- a female. Gen. 1:27; 5:2; 7:9 (of people); Gen. 6:19; 7:3; Lev. 3:1 (of animals)

B. The Greek word for “woman” is

1. The word predominantly translated woman in the New Testament is gune which is used to describe “**a woman of any age, whether a virgin, or married, or a widow.**” -- Joseph Thayer
2. Thelus is the word translated “female” which denotes the second of the two sexes that God created. Matt. 19:4 (Notes God made male and female for a reason); Gal. 3:28 (a distinction lost “in Christ”)

C. Women are seen as distinct from man in Scripture.

1. The word for woman is contrasted with “man” throughout Scripture. Cf. Ex. 35:29; 36:6; Numb. 6:2; 1 Sam. 15:3; 1st Chron. 16:3
2. Women can conceive. Lev. 12:2;
 - a) The word “conceive” is the hebrew word harah Lev. 12:2; Ex. 2:2
 - b) The inability of conception cast a pall over a woman. Gen. 11:30 (Sarai); Gen. 25:21 (Rebekah); Rachel (Gen. 29:31)
 - c) Man is taken out from woman in procreation. Job. 14:1; 15:14

II. THERE ARE OTHER TERMS USED IN SCRIPTURE TO REFER TO THE ROLES OF THOSE WHO ARE FEMALE.

A. The term “damsel” is used in the King James Version to indicate a young female.

1. The Hebrew word is naarah, normally used of “a girl (from infancy to adolescence).” -- Strong’s lexicon cf. Gen. 24:14 (of Rebekah); Deut. 22:15 (of one pledged to be married)
2. The Greek word for “damsel” is paidiske which is “a girl, that is (specifically) a female slave or servant.” -- Strong’s lexicon cf. Matt. 26:69 (of the girl who confronted Peter); Act 16:16 (of the girl with a spirit of divination)

B. There are several words related to the roles a female can fill in a family relationship.

1. Daughter is the Hebrew word “bath” and the Greek word thugater (a female child)
 - a) Fathers “gave” their daughters to marry in the Old Testament. Cf. 1st. Sam. 25:44 (Saul gave Michel his daughter to wed); Gen. 29:6 (Jacob worked to marry the daughters of Laben)
 - b) Fathers determined if their virgin daughters could marry in the New Testament. 1st Co. 7:25, 36-38

2. Daughter-in-law -- kallah -- "**a bride (as if perfect); hence a son's wife.**"
Gen. 11:31 (of Sarah); Ruth 2:20 (Naomi's daughter in law) Lk. 12:53
(Greek word penthera)
3. Sister -- is the Hebrew word aschoth cf. Deut. 27:22
4. Mother -- Greek word mater. Lk. 12:53; 2 Tim. 1:5
5. Mother-in-law -- (chamoth) Ruth 3:1
6. Grandmother -- (mamme) 2 Tim. 1:5

CONCLUSION