

THE BIBLICAL DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE

Part 9

The Roles In Marriage

(The Woman: The Role of a Wife)

1st Co. 7:1-3

INTRODUCTION

Under law, it was stated that whoever “finds a wife findeth a good thing and obtaineth favor of the Lord.” (Prov. 18:22). The word for “favor” is ratson which can be translated “delight or pleasure” from Jehovah. A wife is crucial to the marriage relationship. Finding the wrong wife can affect the trajectory of one’s life. We see in Scripture that the role the wife plays in the marriage relationship affects how much a man might be able to accomplish and the type of family that will be derived from that relationship. Today we will consider the wife and her role in marriage.

I. THE STANDARD MODE OF OPERATION IS FOR EACH MAN TO HAVE HIS OWN WIFE.

A. Paul’s personal preference for the Corinthians was that they remained single in order to wholly serve God. vs. 1-2

1. It is “good” (kalos -- beneficial) . cf. 1st Co. 7:8 (good for unmarried and widows to abide as Paul); 1st Co. 7:26 (good for the present distress)
2. “A man not to “touch” a woman.
 - a) “Touch” is the word haptomai (pres. Mid. inf.) which is used in Scripture of to attach oneself to for one’s on benefit. Cf. Lk. 6:19 (of the multitude who sought to touch the Lord)
 - b) The term “woman” is gune which is used of a wife and of women. Cf. Matt. 19:10; John 4:9; Acts 16:1

B. Because of the problem of fornication in Corinth, Paul encouraged marriage.

1. “Fornication” -- all sexual sins outside of marriage. Cf. Acts 15:20; 1st Thess. 4:3; Rev. 2:21 (the articular use notes the prevalence of it in the Corinthian society)
2. “Let every man have his own wife”.
 - a) “Let” is a horatory per. (pres. imper.) Of echo -- “let have”
 - b) “Man” is “andra” -- from aner which is a mature man. Cf. Acts 5:1; 16:9
 - c) “Own” is the word “idios” -- that unique to one’s self.

- II. A WIFE IS IDENTIFIED IN SCRIPTURE AS A WOMAN WHO SERVES AS A HELPMATE TO HER HUSBAND.
- A. "Helpmate" is a combination of two Hebrew terms:
1. "Ezer" which is used in Scripture of one who is an "**aid**".
 - a) "Help" is the Hebrew word ezer from which the name Eliezer, Moses' son, is derived.
 - b) Ezer is used of God being a help in most of its usages. Cf. Ps. 33:20; 70:5; 115:9
 2. "Neged" -- "**a front, that is, part opposite; specifically a counterpart, or mate.**" Ex. 19:2; 34:10 (used in many context of that which is in front of, before, in the presence of)
- B. The Septuigent translates "helpmate" with the Greek word boetheo which is used in the New Testament of **to come to the aid of another for the purpose of helping them to carry a load; or to do a thing that can't be done alone.**-- K.D.J. cf. Acts 16:9 (of those in Macedonia seeking Paul's help in ministry); Acts 21:28 (of the Jews who cried for help in securing Paul in the temple)
- C. Wives under law and grace reflect the importance of a helpmate.
1. Wives under law aided their husbands by running the home. Prov. 31:10
 - a) Their virtue -- Hebrew word chayil which is used in mostly in Scripture of one of "**strength, might, efficiency**" -- Brown, Driver and Briggs. Ruth 3:11; Prov. 12:4; 31:10,29
 - b) Their homemaking abilities.
 - c) Their fear of Jehovah. Prov. 31:30
 2. Wives under grace are lauded for their spiritual growth and their guiding of the home.
 - a) The wife in the New Testament is seen as a "houseguide" is the word that means house despot -- *one who is a house master* -- Vines. (ill. Matt. 10:25; Lk. 13:25)
 - b) The spiritual deportment of wives is seen in the edict Paul gave to Titus for the older women to teach the married women how to conduct themselves.
 - (1) The word for sober is used in Scripture to denote a mental soundness; how to reflectively think. Lk. 8:35; Acts 26:25
 - (2) They could teach them how to be pure (agnos -- **to be free from defilement, not contaminated, chasity that excludes all impurity of spirit, manner or act**). 1 Pet. 1:22; 1 John 3:3
 - (3) They could train them on how to be good (*agathos* -- *to do those things that make for happiness*) Acts 14:17; 1 Pet. 2:15

(4) They could train them on how to *submit, place oneself under another's authority in order to receive a benefit,* to their own husbands. Eph. 5:22

CONCLUSION