

THE BIBLICAL DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE

Part 10

The Roles In Marriage

(The Woman: The Role of a Wife)

Eph. 5:22-23

INTRODUCTION

- I. A SPIRITUAL WIFE WILL SUBMIT HERSELF TO HER HUSBAND. Eph. 5:22
 - A. Submission is from:
 1. “Hupo” -- to be under
 2. “Tasso” -- **“to draw up in order of battle, to form, array, marshal both troops or ships. It speaks of soldiers marshalled in military order under a commanding officer.”** -- Kenneth Wuest
 - a) Used of military order. Lk. 7:8
 - b) Used of government order. Rom. 13:1
 - B. There are various definitions used to by lexicons to define “submission”
 1. **“To place or arrange under; to subordinate; to bring under influence; (in middle voice) to submit one’s self, render obedience, be submissive.”** -- Thomas Sheldon Green
 2. **“To subject, make subject; to arrange under, to subordinate, put in subjection; in the middle voice, to subject one’s self to, to obey.”** -- Kenneth Wuest
- II. THE GRAMMATICAL USE OF THE WORD “SUBMISSION” NOTES THE VOLUNTARY NATURE OF A WIFE’S YIELDING HERSELF TO HER HUSBAND.
 - A. “Submission” is used in the pres. Mid. imper. twice in the New Testament, both relating to wives. Eph. 5:22; Col. 3:18
 - B. The term submission is used four times in the pres. Mid. participle to note a habit of behavior. cf. Lk. 2:51 (of the Lord submitting Himself to His parents); Tit. 2:5 (of wives)
 - C. Subjection of the wife is limited to her “own husband”.
 1. Submission of wives for her own benefit is limited to her husband. Eph. 5:22; Tit. 2:5; 1st Pet. 3:1
 2. Submission of a wife to her husband has been consistent in God’s plan and purposes. 1st Pet. 3:5
 - a) The phrase “in the old time” is and adverb of time (pote) which notes believing women of old. Cf. vs. 6; Gen. 18:12 (Sara)

b) "Holy women" refers to believing women in past dispensations.

III. SCRIPTURE LISTS SEVERAL PURPOSES AS TO WHY GOD DESIRES THE WIFE TO SUBMIT TO HER HUSBAND.

- A. God desires the wife to submit to her husband because the husband is head of the house as Christ is head of the Church. Eph. 5:22-23
1. "For" is a word that explains the reasoning behind the wife's submission.
 2. The word "head" is used of ***the one directing the affairs of an entity***. --K.D.J. Cf. 1st Co. 11:3 (Christ over every man; man over his wife; the Father over Christ)
- B. God desires the wife to submit to her husband so that if any obey not the Word, they might be gained by the routine manner of life of their wives. 1st Pet. 3:1
- C. God desires the wife to submit to her husband so that the Word of God is not blasphemed. Tit. 2:5
1. "That" is a purpose clause that notes the reason for the aforementioned admonition.
 2. "The Word of God" or the Word belonging to God -- the doctrine provided from the Father that instructs the believer in this dispensation. Cf. Heb. 4:12; Acts 17:13
 3. "Blasphemed" is a word used in the New Testament of ***attributing things to God that He has not said about Himself; which can be done as a result of the behavior of those who belong to Him***. --- K.D.J. cf. Rom. 2:24 (the Jews caused the character of God to be blasphemed before the Gentiles); 1st Tim. 6:1 (believers can do so by being disobedient to masters)

CONCLUSION