

THE BIBLICAL DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE  
Part 12  
The Roles In Marriage  
(The Woman: The Characteristics of a Good Wife)  
1st Tim. 2:9-15

INTRODUCTION

- I. A GOOD WIFE IS GOVERNED BY THE PROPER FRAME OF MIND. 1st Tim. 2:15
  - A. Sophrosune is the word used by the apostle Paul to describe the mindset that governs a wife who is pleasing to the Lord.
    1. The thrust of sophrosune is lost by various translations of the New Testament.
      - a) The King James translates the word “**sobriety**”
      - b) The New American Standard translates the word “**self-restraint**”
      - c) Darby translates the word “**discretion**”.
      - d) The NIV translates the word “**propriety**”
    2. Some lexicons provide a better understanding of the word.
      - a) “**As a quality of life characterized by the ability to restrain passions and impulses; self-control, moderation, sensibleness.**” -- Friberg lexicon
      - b) “**Quality of moderation and good sense as expressed in viewpoints or ideas; reasonableness, in contrast to madness.**” -- Danker lexicon
      - c) “**Soundness of mind, that is, (literally) sanity or (figuratively) self-control; soberness.**” -- Strong’s lexicon
  - B. Sophrosune is used to emphasize the mind that is reflectively thinking upon present tense salvation.
    1. A break down of the sophrosune gives further insight into the word.
      - a) “So” is from sozo which pertains to salvation.
      - b) “Phro” -- to frame. Rom. 8:6 (one’s frame of mind affects one’s disposition); Phil. 3:19 (one’s frame of mind reflects their focus)
      - c) “Sune” is a suffix that emphasizes **the quality of a word** (“ness”)-- with sophro -- notes **the mentality of one who frames on salvation** (present tense)
    2. Sophrosune is from sophroneo (translated “sober”). 1st Pet. 4:7; Tit. 2:6; 2 Co. 5:13
    3. The preposition “with” establishes a link between the proper frame of mind and the behavior.

- a) “With” is the Greek preposition “meta” which is used in Scripture of that which follows a thing; to have a loose association with a thing.
- b) A saving frame of mind is a precursor for accessing qualities that make a wife effective.

II. A SAVING FRAME OF MIND IS PRECURSOR FOR THREE QUALITIES BY WHICH A BELIEVING WIFE CAN GLORIFY GOD.

- A. Two of the qualities, faith and love, are seen as the mark of maturing believers throughout Scripture. Col. 1:9; 1st Thess. 3:6; 5:8; 1st Tim. 1:14
- B. “In (in a sphere of) faith” (without the article -- a quality of faith) -- ***an attitude of faith; taking God at His word.*** Cf. 1st Thess. 1:2 (produces works); 1st Tim. 3:13; 4:12 (typified for people to see)
- C. “(In) (in a sphere of ) love”-- ***self-sacrifice.*** 1st Tim. 4:12; 2 Tim. 1:13 (the basis of holding fast sound words); Jude 21 (believer supposed to keep themselves in); Gal. 5:13 (is the means by how believers serve one another)
- D. “(In) holiness”-- ***set apartness; living as those who are distinct from the world.*** Cf. 1st Thess. 4:7 (what God called believers to); 2 Thess. 2:13 (the Holy Spirit produces);

III. ABIDING IN FAITH, LOVE AND SANCTIFICATION ASSURE A WIFE OF PROTECTION IN CHILDBEARING.

- A. Paul connects the possibility of the woman being saved through child-bearing if they are abiding. Vs. 15
  - 1. “Remain” is from the Greek word “meno” (aor. Act. ind.).
  - 2. The form Meinosin is used in the New Testament of ***to remain in a place or thing for the purpose of glorifying God.*** cf. 1st Co. 7:8 (of remaining single)
- B. The passive form of sozo is used several times in Scripture to note physical salvation. Cf. Rom. 11:26 (of Israel’s deliverance); 1st Co. 3:15 (of the bema seat judgment)

CONCLUSION