



God's Design for Marriage

Lesson 6: A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE: MARRIAGE AND REDEMPTION

The Role of the Wife

“And so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.”

Titus 2:4-5

Wise women

- *Prov 14:1, The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down*
- The foolish woman pursues her own desires over those of her family's, and slowly and gradually tears down her home with her own hands
- The wise woman orientates her life to the building up of her home

What is a helper?

- *Gen 2:18, 21-22, Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him” ... So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man*

- A “helper” is someone who supplies strength in the area that is lacking in the one being helped
- In the context of Genesis, it does not imply the helper (wife) is either stronger or weaker than the one being helped (husband), but rather it means the wife is given to her husband for the purpose of filling in his deficiencies for the task the Lord has for him
- The New Testament outlines the role of “helper” in three key passages:

Eph 5:22-24, ²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

1 Pet 3:1-6, ¹ Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ² when they see your respectful and pure conduct. ³ Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— ⁴ but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious. ⁵ For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

Titus 2:3-5, ³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

How to be a “helper”

1) Embrace submission (Eph 5:22-24; 1 Pet 3:1; Titus 2:5)

- *1 Cor 11:3, But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.*
- Alistair Begg said, “The relationship structure of Christ to God is the same one written into the fabric of marriage. The husband and wife are equal in their standing before God, and their spiritual natures are the same, but in order for the family to function in harmony, the woman, with no loss of dignity, takes the place of submission to the headship of her husband. God’s perfect design intends that her respect, help, and obedience should be matched by the husband’s servant leadership, as together they submit to the lordship of Christ.”
- A helper is a wife who submits to her husband by embracing and loving his leadership and his initiative to lead
- Hard questions:
 - Do I submit to my husband in everything?
 - Do I submit to my unbelieving husband?
 - Do I submit to my lazy husband?

2) Adorn yourself with courage (1 Pet 3:6)

- It can be a fearful thing for a wife to obey God in the area of submission. However, a godly helper is a wife who adorns herself in a hope in God from which flows fearlessness and courage to embrace her God given role.
- *1 Pet 3:5-6, For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.*

3) Cultivate a heart of love

By praying for your husband

By learning to understand him

By serving through your communication

By physically loving him

By doing activities with him

By encouraging him