



The Most Important Ministry of the Christian Wife

by Jeanne Keck

*The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.*

*She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.*


Proverbs 31:11-12 (ESV)

A. God's Divine Design

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." ¹⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. ²² The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. ²³ The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.



Before I got married I didn't even know there was a wrong way to put milk back in the fridge!

- God made man with a built-in need for a woman.

“[Man] was incomplete without someone to complement him in fulfilling the task of filling, multiplying, and taking dominion over the earth. This points to Adam’s inadequacy, not Eve’s insufficiency . . . Woman was made by God to meet man’s deficiency.”

John MacArthur

- Men and women are different physiologically and psychologically.

“Masculinity and femininity represent a profound distinction which is psychological as well as physiological . . . Both [male and female] equally bear God’s image, but each also complements the other.”

John Stott

B. God's Divine Plan

Ephesians 5:22-24; 33b *Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything . . . and the wife must see to it that she respect her husband.*

- The marriage relationship visibly demonstrates to the world the relationship between Christ and the church.

“The whole letter [of Ephesians] is thus a magnificent combination of Christian doctrine and Christian duty, Christian faith, and Christian life; what God has done through Christ and what we must be and do in consequence.”

John Stott

“Because the obedient, spiritual wife’s supreme submission is to the Lord, her attitude is that she lovingly submits as an act of obedience to the Lord who has given this command as His will for her, regardless of her husband’s personal worthiness or spiritual condition.”

John MacArthur

- Since Christ is our Redeemer, our being a submissive wife is a divine calling.

Thoughts from Matthew Henry

“Submit your understandings to the truths of God; submit your wills to the will of God, the will of His precept, the will of His providence.”

“Yield yourselves to him [God] as wax to the seal, to take any impression, to be, and have, and do, what He pleases.”

C. And The Wife Must SEE TO IT . . .

Ephesians 5:33 . . . *and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.*

- Because of the many complex differences between men and women, men feel loved differently than women do.
 - Never tell your husband's faults to others . . . even your mother.
 - Are you communicating respect when you talk to him?
 - You mustn't assume you know his motives.
- Men may appear very secure on the outside, but many times that is not what they are feeling on the inside.

Thoughts from Shaunti Feldhahn

"Men would rather feel alone and unloved than inadequate and disrespected."

"The male ego is incredibly fragile. We women often think of this as male pride---but that isn't it."

"Your sexual desire for your husband profoundly affects his sense of well-being and confidence in all areas of his life."

"For most men, the drive to provide is so deeply rooted that almost nothing can relieve their feeling of duty."

“Submission is ultimately an attitude of respect, first for the Lord, then for one’s husband. A wife who respects her husband affirms his strengths. She becomes an oasis where he can flourish.”

Gary Inrig

Romans 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Book List

Ashbrook, John E. *Family Fundamentals*.


Feldhahn, Shaunti. *For Women Only*.

Inrig, Gary. *Whole Marriage in a Broken World*.

Stieglitz, Gil. *Marital Intelligence*.

Stott, John R. W. *The Message of Ephesians*.

Strauch, Alexander. *Men and Women – Equal Yet Different*.



I don't understand how God can have 10 commandments for the whole world and my wife can have 152 just for our house.

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