

The Marvelous Institution of Marriage, Part 4

Biblical Expectations of Wives

May 21, 1995

- 1 Peter 3:1-6

After laying foundational groundwork for the institution which God has created, we addressed those things which would hinder communication between husbands and wives. Last week we considered the expectations that God has placed on those who would take on the office of husband.

As we are considering these things please keep in mind that men and women, by God's design have different orientations. They are wonderfully complimentary. It would be inappropriate to say one was right or wrong. They are different, and it is wonderful.

- A Godly wife is a picture of the Church

Ephesians 5:22-24

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. (NKJV)

- The wife completes the picture of the relationship between Christ and the Church by being the Church. The Church has as her head Christ and the Church renders complete submission to Him. Wives should acknowledge their head without shame but with glory. If you are ashamed of your submission to your husband you are ashamed of Christ. If you are grumbling about your role as wife you are complaining about Christ. If you are domineering over your husband you are trying to be Christ when God has intended you to be the Church and you will not succeed in producing anything righteous.

- Her primary calling is to respect and submit to her husband.

Ephesians 5:33

33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (NKJV)

- The wives must show respect and submit to their husband as to the Lord. This means that there should be no one else to whom you show more respect than your husband; not your neighbor, the police officer, not your employer and especially not your father or mother. In addition, your submission and respect must be joyful and visible. It is not enough to say "Well yes, I'm sure he knows that I respect him." Your husband must hear, see it and feel it for it to be real and Biblical. We are not talking about *pretend* respect.
- But you will say, "Respect *him*?" Yes. First confess that attitude as sin and then receive this instruction. Your rendering of Godly respect will produce respectability in him. Don't be guilty of the same thing you accused him of not loving you enough.

- She must be a helpful companion.

Genesis 2:18

18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." (NKJV)

- God has given many responsibilities to your husband and he has given you to him to help him carry those things out. Are you being helpful? Are you an

encouragement or a discouragement? Remember if your husband is successful in pleasing God, you will be successful too. Your orientation should be continually encouraging and helping your husband to accomplish what God has called him to, not what you have called him to.

- She should be oriented toward her children and the home.

1 Timothy 2:15

15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control. (NKJV)

Titus 2:3-5

3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things -- 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. (NKJV)

1 Timothy 5:13-14

13 And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not. 14 Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. (NKJV)

- What is obvious biologically, is confirmed Scripturally that God intends women, under His providence, to bear children. However, we must not interpret this verse to mean that it is a means to salvation. We need to catch the entire context of the verse that begins with Paul's instruction not to let the women teach with authority in church or over a man because of the creation order and the deception of Eve. For fear that this might cause a great weight of despair, Paul encourages the women to bear child while continuing in Faith, love and goodness.
- The ladies are to be industrious and well managed at home. This is because an orderly and Godly environment for rearing children requires this kind of management. A women need not do anything to have a home that is chaotic. But if she wants a home where Godly children may be rendered unto God, she must be diligent with all of the responsibilities at home. This is not an option. Not doing so is disobedience and blasphemous. You cannot turn the Word of God on its head by saying that your husband would be much better at it than you are. You must learn. You must learn so that you can become an older woman who will teach the younger women these things.
- Women should never complain in their fruitfulness. This is extremely hard work. You will get tired quickly and feel like the work may never end. This is normal and *good*. Notice that if you weren't doing these things you might tend toward idleness and other sins. This is a not only God's design for continuing our race it is a blessing of protection against sin.

- Women should be clothing themselves with good works.

Proverbs 31:25

25 Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come. (NKJV)

1 Timothy 5:9-10

9 Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, 10 well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work. (NKJV)

- Ladies should be given to good works all of their lives. Clearly when they have younger children, they will be consumed with those duties. But as they have extra time (which they probably will) they should replace idleness with serving others.

- Wives should remember that a sexual relationship is a protection for her husband.

1 Corinthians 7:3-4

3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does

not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. (NKJV)

- As we have considered before, men and women typically have different temptations in this area. An important thing for the wife to consider is that her husband is tempted by what he *sees*, not by what he experiences. She shouldn't be insulted to know that her husband can be tempted, rather, she should seek to be a protection for the husband.
- As Peter stated in our opening verse, your beauty should not come for outward adornment but from your Godly demeanor. Your immodest apparel will be a stumbling block for him and other husbands. God wants you to be helpful not a hindrance.

- **Wives should guard against being contentious.**

Proverbs 27:15-16

15 A continual dripping on a very rainy day And a contentious woman are alike; 16 Whoever restrains her restrains the wind, And grasps oil with his right hand. (NKJV)

- Here we see an admonition for women not to be naggers. God has called you to be a helper for your husbands not a stumbling block. It is more important for you to fulfill this calling than for whatever you are nagging him about to get done. He will be held accountable for disregarding your request. With silence, piety and prayer you will shape your husband not with your continual badgering.

- **Wives should spend money wisely.**

Proverbs 31:15-18

15 She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants. 16 She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard. 17 She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms. 18 She perceives that her merchandise is good, And her lamp does not go out by night. (NKJV)

- Generally speaking, women are better spenders of money than men are. Women are frequently more responsible at the spending. God is pleased by careful shopping. Going store to store to find a better deal is showing respect to your husband. But be careful that window shopping doesn't become window coveting and thereby disrespect your husband.

- **Wives should receive instruction from their husbands.**

1 Timothy 2:11

11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 14:35

35 And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church. (NKJV)

- God has given the mandate to the husbands to teach their wives by washing them with the Word. Women have been given the mandate to learn. It is a disregard for His calling by God for you to not seek your husband for instruction—even if you don't think he will have the answer. Your obedience is far more important to you than his ability to answer the question.