

THE ROLE OF THE WIFE

LESSON 7

When it comes to **roles** in our marriage; what **source** are we taking our direction from? We basically have 3 choices: the **World**, the **Church**, and the **Bible**.

But because the church has gotten so "*spread out*" on this issue, if we were to put it on a scale - it would something like this:



WORLD ----- C --- H --- U --- R --- C --- H ----- BIBLE

The world puts our role way on one end of the scale.

The Bible puts our role on the other end of the scale.

And **the church** has become "*spread out*" somewhere between the world and the Bible, hasn't it?

When Christians discuss this subject, why is it that we so often find ourselves on some kind of a *sliding scale*, trying to fit in somewhere between what the world says and what the Bible says?

If we want to experience God's blessings in our marriage, we've got to accept our God-given roles by faith, relying on the Holy Spirit to conform us to God's design.

Christian wives, have you decided whether you're going to join God in His design for your marriage, trusting Him by faith to bring about His blessings through His design? _____

In Gen Ch 2 God was finishing the design of mankind, and we read . . .

Gen 2:18

“And the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”



God designed woman as “*a helper comparable to Adam.*”

But wait a minute, let’s back up a bit. Back to Gen Ch 1 we read:

Gen 1:27

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Do you see here in Gen 1:27 that mankind was created “**one made out of two?**”

Hmmm . . . one made out of two . . . doesn’t that sound a little like “**in the image of God?**”

CONSIDER THIS . . .

In the Godhead, is there one whose role is the helper?
Don’t we even call one member of the Trinity the helper?
Are we demeaning that person of the Godhead?
Are we insinuating the helper role is less God than the other roles?
Do you think the Holy Spirit feels insulted or slighted by His role?

Then why do some of us bristle up at this term helper?

ANSWER: *The sin nature.*

It’s the sin nature (self-will) that causes our bristling at this word.

LET'S LOOK CLOSELY AT THIS WORD HELPER IN GENESIS 2:18

Gen 2:18

“And the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.’”

The Hebrew word for helper is `ezer (ay-zer). It means . . . to help. It is used 21 times in the Old Testament:

5 TIMES it's used referring to PEOPLE (including here in Gen 2:18)

16 TIMES it's used referring to the person of GOD

This word is used to define God's role **3 times more** often than it's used to define man's role. Yet, we often think somehow it's a demeaning term . . .

Isn't that an insult to God?

HIS ROLE DEFINITION FOR GOD CONTINUES INTO THE NEW TESTAMENT

in **John 14:16** the Holy Spirit is defined as “*Allos Parakletos*”, which means ***one of the same kind and quality who is called alongside to help.***

God is 3 perfectly equal individuals, with different roles, together making one. One of those roles is the helper. And God has also designed the wife as the helper.

Gen 1:27 – “*So God created man in His own image . . .*”

The next word in **Gen 2:18** we need to look at is **comparable** . . .

The Hebrew word translated **comparable** means literally **opposite**.
The most literal translation of this word in **Gen 2:18** is;
a helper according to the opposite of him.

Have you ever heard the phrase "*opposites attract?*"
As His opposite, woman was made to complement and correspond to man, to be his **counterpart**.

I am incomplete without my wife. She was designed by God to be opposite of me so that she fits me perfectly. ***Together we make mankind.***



God crafted woman to be the counterpart of man.
To complete the ONE PERSON of mankind.

It is impossible for **God's design for marriage** to be fulfilled without the wife taking on her role as helper.

It would be like the church trying to accomplish God's purposes without the power, the strength, and the help of the Holy Spirit.



Now we've got to **bring God's design** of the wife's role from **Gen Ch 2** with us, as we head over to that infamous verse in **Eph 5:22**.

If we will approach Eph 5:22-24 with God's 'Genesis 2' design fresh in our mind, then we'll see this scripture much more clearly.

Eph 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."*

Last lesson, we saw the need in all relationships for us to submit to one another in the fear of the Lord, that was **Eph 5:21**.

But now - in the very next verse . . .

Paul begins talking about order and functionality in all of our primary relationships. And he begins with the role of the wife.

Eph 5:22-24 is a statement of order and functionality, that comes directly from the roles that God designed for marriage.

The most common definition of submit is **to arrange under**. It refers to order and functionality in relationships.

God's design for the good of the marriage relationship is:

- for the husband to be the leader; and
- for the wife to be in support of that leadership



It has nothing to do with **superiority**. It has everything to do with **function**:

- It is in role and function that Jesus Christ submits to the Father; and
- It is in role and function that the wife submits to the husband.

Submission is God's design for multiple roles to operate as one flesh. And it is patterned after the image of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

It means the role of leadership in your marriage is your husband's, and your role is to be his counter-part, to help him and support him.

Now, let's talk about the **as to the Lord** part of Eph 5:22;

Eph 5:22

"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord."

Col 3:18

"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."

Col 3:23

"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,"

**A WIFE'S SUBMISSION TO HER HUSBAND IS
HER SERVICE RENDERED AS UNTO THE LORD.**

Now invariably, right here comes the quick-draw response, ***"yeah, but . . ."***

- ***"Yeah, but"*** - what if my husband _____?
- ***"Yeah, but"*** - what if my husband isn't saved?
- ***"Yeah, but"*** - what if my husband's an idiot?
- ***"Yeah, but"*** - what about **ME**? – And what about what **I WANT**?

Now, some of the ***"yeah, but"*** questions do require additional counsel. **HOWEVER**, you must **first** trust God's Design for marriage, then you can seek additional counsel **from** that position of trusting His design.

We need to receive by faith, God's design for the role of the wife:

- 1 To sacrificially come alongside to **help**
- 2 To sacrificially **support** your husband as the leader

Here are 5 "A" words from Sandy MacIntosh (*Word for Today*) that will truly say to your husband: "I want to be your helper" - and - "I support you."

5 practical ways to fulfill the role of the wife (written by a woman):

- 1 Adaptation – adapt yourself to your husband.
- 2 Acceptance – let him know you accept him, just as he is.
- 3 Agreement – this takes constant self-sacrifice from both spouses.
- 4 Attitude – that draws him to you, not pushes him away.
- 5 Appreciation – show him how much you appreciate him.

There were actually 6 'A' words, but the 6th was a little mushy for me . . .
The 6th is;

- 6 Adoration – let him know you adore him.

God's design for the role of the wife is to:

- **Sacrificially Help**, and
- **Sacrificially Support** her husband in the marriage relationship.

Response Time . . .

Who determines if the wife is fulfilling her role as Helper?

Wife Husband

WIVES, this is so important - it is today's M.I.P. . .

M.I.P.

Session 7 – Most Important Point

IT IS THE HUSBAND THAT DETERMINES IF THE WIFE IS SACRIFICIALLY HELPING AND SACRIFICIALLY SUPPORTING.

Wives – You’re only helping if your husband **FEELS** helped.
You’re only supporting if your husband **FEELS** supported.

So wives, please hand your workbook to your husband . . .

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HUSBAND IN THE WIFE’S WORKBOOK

3 areas my wife either **DOES** or **COULD** - make me feel helped:

___ Does ___ Could _____
___ Does ___ Could _____
___ Does ___ Could _____

3 areas my wife either **DOES** or **COULD** - strengthen & support me:

___ Does ___ Could _____
___ Does ___ Could _____
___ Does ___ Could _____

Let’s Pray: “Heavenly Father, this can be such a difficult subject. Please help us choose Your design over our own or the world’s. May You live in us to fulfill the roles You’ve designed us for. We trust Your design. Please give us the power of Your Holy Spirit to be all that You’ve created us to be. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”