

# BUILD YOUR HOUSE – Part 2

## Genesis 2:18

**18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I WILL MAKE HIM AN HELP MEET FOR HIM.**

We said to you last time that the woman was created to help the man in two areas: 1) build a family (by helping to multiply God's image in the earth) and 2) obey God. The first job of helping a man build a family/home is something most people know. However, it's the second job, helping man obey God, that may come as a surprise to some. Yet, we know this is what God intended because the decision to make her a "helper" to the man came *immediately* after God commanded Adam not to eat of the tree of knowledge. Furthermore, since we know the woman was *made* for this purpose, we should expect that God has created and designed her with certain traits that would help her carry out this function. But, what are these traits?

## 1 Peter 3:1

**1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may WITHOUT THE WORD be WON by the CONVERSATION of the wives;**

This verse confirms what we already know, that women have the potential to "win" over their husbands. Yet, Peter tells us that the BEST way for a woman to do this is by her *walk*, not her *talk*. As a woman, you're better off letting your husband SEE you, than trying to make him HEAR you!

Peter goes on to list *other* traits that will help women carry out their duty as wives.

## 1 Peter 3:2

**2 While the behold your CHASTE conversation coupled with FEAR.**

## CHASTITY

Peter mentions *two* traits in this verse. The **first trait is *chastity***. Being *chaste* will help a woman to win over her husband. Note, Peter is *not* talking about *sexually* purity (chastity). He's talking about operating with pure *motives*. As a wife, you will have more influence with your husband when you operate with more *purity* (sincerity) and with less hypocrisy.

## FEAR (REVERENCE)

The **second trait is *fear or reverence***. When you fear or reverence a person you will regard them as *important* and worthy of *honor*. Furthermore, it's important for a wife to have reverence for both *God* AND her *husband*.

### Ephesians 5:21

**<sup>21</sup> Submitting yourselves one to another IN THE FEAR OF GOD.**

### Ephesians 5:33

**<sup>33</sup> Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that SHE REVERENCE HER HUSBAND.**

### 1 Peter 3:4, 5

**<sup>4</sup> But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. <sup>5</sup> For after this manner in the old time the HOLY WOMEN also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, BEING IN SUBJECTION unto their own husbands:**

Before we move on, it's important to note what Peter is saying. He's revealing that a wife's ultimate duty is to be in *subjection* to her husband. Furthermore, it's her ability to be in subjection that identifies her as 'holy'. Now, if you're someone who is not particularly interested in being holy, if you would rather be your own woman or a woman of the world, then these words won't necessarily appeal to you!

### 1 Peter 3:4

**<sup>4</sup> But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a MEEK and QUIET spirit...**

## MEEKNESS

Peter lists two more traits in this verse. **The first is *meekness***. In the Bible, meekness is closely related to *lowliness*.

### Matthew 11:29

**<sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am MEEK AND LOWLY in heart:**

Moreover, someone who is meek (lowly) is usually someone who is *unconcerned* (unbothered) *by their status in life*. And the reason a meek person is unconcerned with their status is because they're not overly concerned with themselves!

### **Philippians 2:3, 5**

**<sup>3</sup> Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in LOWLINESS OF MIND let each esteem other BETTER THAN THEMSELVES. <sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you, WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS:**

These verses reveal two things: 1) being lowly is equivalent to being like Christ, and 2) being like Christ is what enables you to master being lowly or in subjection!

### **Philippians 2:6, 7**

**<sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God, THOUGHT IT NOT ROBBERY TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD: <sup>7</sup> But made himself of NO REPUTATION, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:**

You know that you're mastering subjection when, like Christ, you don't try to *seize* equality in a relationship. Also, you know you're mastering subjection when you won't allow others to *force* equality on to you!

### **John 6:15**

**<sup>15</sup> When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him BY FORCE, TO MAKE HIM A KING, HE DEPARTED...**

## **QUIETNESS**

The **fourth and final trait is *quietness***. Peter is here referring to a *quietness of mind* (i.e. tranquil, not easily disturbed). Thus, someone who's easily frightened or prone to worry will struggle with subjection. However, someone who is less likely to panic, especially when their life is *seemingly* in someone else's hands, will have an easier time with subjection.

Now, even though Peter is primarily speaking about quietness *of mind*, there IS a sense in which being in subjection requires a quietness *of mouth*!

### **Titus 2:9**

**<sup>9</sup> Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; NOT ANSWERING AGAIN;**

In other words, there are times when someone in subjection (like a servant) should *keep quiet* and not talk back. And just in case we think this is a rule ONLY for "servants," let us consider the following...

### **1 Peter 2:21–23; 3:1**

**21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, REVILED NOT AGAIN; when he suffered, HE THREATENED NOT; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:**

**1 LIKEWISE, YE WIVES, be in subjection to your own husbands...**

### **1 Corinthians 14:34**

**34 LET YOUR WOMEN KEEP SILENCE IN THE CHURCHES: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded TO BE UNDER OBEDIENCE, as also saith the law.**

What does women being “silent” in church have to do with wives being in subjection? Well, let us first make sure we properly understand what Paul meant when he said, “Let women keep silent in church.” Does he mean women aren’t allowed to say ANYTHING in Church?

### **1 Corinthians 11:5**

**5 But EVERY WOMAN THAT PRAYETH OR PROPHESETH with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.**

Clearly, women ARE allowed to speak in Church. So, what did Paul mean when he said, “Let women keep silent in church”?

### **1 Corinthians 14:29**

**29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and LET THE OTHER JUDGE.**

Therefore, when Paul said, “Let women keep silent,” he was referring to women “judging” or participating in the kind of speaking that could give the impression they are setting people (particularly men) straight. Moreover, understanding why God wouldn’t want women doing this kind of speaking in His house will help us to better understand why He wouldn’t want wives doing that kind of speaking (i.e. setting their husbands straight) in our house.

We can also see it another way. If we know how God wants women to behave and use their voice at home, then we will know how God wants women to behave and use their voice at church!