

## **Wife: God's Nurturer**

In *His Needs, Her Needs*, Dr. Willard Harley identifies the top five needs that husbands have of their wives as: **1. Lover** (physical intimacy); **2. Buddy** (recreational companion); **3. Beauty** (looking her best); **4. Homemaker** (keeping a peaceful and orderly home); **5. Admirer** (builds up her man). How does this match up with the role of the wife as described in Scripture?

The wife is God's nurturer, "one who helps another grow, develop, and succeed". She breathes life into whoever is around her. *"A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life."* Proverbs 31:10-12.

### **Three Assignments for Wives in Being A Family Nurturer:**

- 1. Through \_\_\_\_\_ (Winsome Loyalty)**
  - a.** *"Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of our lives."* I Peter 3:1-2. The wife is to be fiercely loyal to her husband so that he never doubts that she is in his corner.
  - b.** By living a Spirit-filled life full of joy (Philippians 4:4), the wife is winsome toward her husband. She seeks to impact him in a godly direction just as the Apostle Paul sought to impact various people groups to follow Jesus (I Corinthians 9:19-22). Winsomeness is no guarantee that someone will follow Christ as even Paul said he would only be able to "save some".
  - c.** *"Through us [God] spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we...are the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To one we are the smell of death; to another we are the fragrance of life."* II Corinthians 2:14-16.
  - d.** Jolene Engle has gone thru divorce, physical abuse, chronic pain, and financial setbacks both before and after coming to Christ at age 26 (joleneengle.com). Today she is seeking to build a godly second marriage. Jolene wrote *Wives of the Bible*, a study of 25 brides mentioned in Scripture, showing that marital struggles come in all shapes and sizes.
  
- 2. Through \_\_\_\_\_ (Inner Beauty)**
  - a.** *"Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."* I Peter 3:3-4.
  - b.** While seeking to look your best is commended in the Song of Solomon, outward beauty is secondary to inner beauty which is "unfading". Being

gentle means having “a patient and humble attitude”. Being quiet means “to be filled with inner peace”. These qualities can co-exist with being an assertive, industrious, and hard-working businesswoman (Proverbs 31:13-18).

**3. Through \_\_\_\_\_ (Respectful Godliness)**

- a. *“For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.” I Peter 3:5-6.*
- b. It wasn't easy to be married to Abraham, who moved his family a thousand miles away to Canaan. Sarah followed him back and forth to Egypt and throughout Canaan, always living in a tent.
- c. Are you husbands called to lead their families? Yes. But there are conditions upon his leadership for he is to lead out of a foundation of mutual submission with this wife. *“In the same way” (I Peter 3:7)* refers back to citizens, slaves, and wives who are also instructed to submit (I Peter 2:13, 18; 3:1). A husband's wife is his partner and co-heir of eternal life (I Peter 3:7).

**There never would have been Billy Graham as we know him without his wife, Ruth Bell Graham. She was the wind beneath his wings, giving life to him and their five children. As described in *Ruth the Portrait* by Patricia Cornwell, Ruth put aside her own dreams of being a missionary for the sake of her husband's ministry. She used her strong-willed nature and spunky personality in God-honoring ways that inspire us all.**