Roles & Responsibilities of Husbands and Wives that Glorify God

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All Truth is God’s Truth
Intuition - (man’s own personal thoughts and feelings)

Science ("Hard" - Observational)

Philosophy & Psychology (a discipline or "Soft" Science)

Revelation: Absolute Divine Truth

Descending Order of Certainty & Authority

Adapted, Dr. Robert Thomas, TMS, Spring, 1998
1. Criticism: Reader over Text

Reader has last word.

Daniel Doriani
Putting the Truth to Work, 64
2. Dialogue: Reader beside Text

Reader

Text

Reader still has last word.

Daniel Doriani
3. Submission: Reader under Text

Text

Reader

Text (or God) has last word.

Daniel Doriani
Does This Sound Familiar?

Joe and Susan come for counseling because of their inability to resolve a major conflict in their marriage. Joe begins by saying, “God is leading us to move to another state for a job change, but Susan is unwilling to follow me. Now I know that Ephesians 5 says I’m the head and Susan is supposed to submit to me – Right?”
Does This Sound Familiar?

Susan interrupts, “Joe doesn’t have to move – he just wants a job change that’s close to his relatives – but we’re settled here – the kids don’t want to go anywhere – they have their friends and I have my church friends. He makes so many foolish decisions without my input and then expects me to reap the tragic consequences.”
Does This Sound Familiar?

Susan continues, “I know that Ephesians 5 also says that he is supposed to love me like Christ loves the church – Right? Somewhere I believe it says that he is supposed to live with me in an understanding way. Well, I’ve had it, enough is enough!”
Does This Sound Familiar?

Joe replies, “I’m going! And if she doesn’t follow me, her God-ordained ‘head,’ then I guess you all at the church will just have to church discipline her like Matthew 18 says to do.” They both stop talking and are now looking you to say something.”
• **Preeminence of Christ**
  (under the ultimate goal of bringing glory to God)

1. Biblical Commands and Principles
2. Ways to Acknowledge and Keep Christ Preeminent in our marriages
• Biblical Purposes
  (under the ultimate goal of bringing glory to God)

1. Common Reasons why people get married
2. Biblical Purposes (under the ultimate goal of bringing glory to God)

A. PURPOSE 1 - COMPANIONSHIP (Genesis 2:18a; Proverbs 2:17; 1 Peter 3:7)

B. PURPOSE 2 - ASSISTANCE (Genesis 2:15, 18)
C. PURPOSE 3 - CHARACTERIZATION of God's relationship to His people and Christ's relationship to His church (Ephesians 5:22–32)

D. PURPOSE 4 – SEXUAL UNION (Genesis 1:27-28a; 2:24c; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5; Hebrews 13:4)
E. PURPOSE 5 – MINISTRY/FRUIT
(John 15:8; Ephesians 4:12;
2 Peter 1:8 – same as one who is single)
Introduction

• God’s Glory is most important
• Submission is not for women only
• We’re equal in personhood but different in function
Roles & Responsibilities of the Husband

He is Glorifying and Submissive to God, and in many ways like Christ, when:
A. He is a Sacrificial LOVER

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her” (Eph. 5:25ff)
1. Love Defined – Popular View
2. Love Defined – Biblical View
Christlike Love

Christlike love – a selfless and enduring commitment of the redeemed heart (by faith in Christ - in thoughts, affections and choices) to intentionally care for and truly benefit the true needs of another person by righteous, truthful, and compassionate thoughts, words and actions (sacrificial) by the enablement of the Spirit and for the glory of God.
2. **Love Described**

a. As Christ loved the church

i. **In principle:**

a) **Initiatory**

“We love, because He first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

b) **Sacrificial**

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her” Eph. 5:25
2. Love Described [Cont.]

b. Humble

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of your regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” Phil. 2:3-4
2. **Love Described [Cont.]**

c. **Volitional**

   “You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.”

   *John 15:16*
2. **Love Described [Cont.]**

d. *Contra-conditional*

   “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” *Rom. 5:8*
2. Love Described [Cont.]

e. Eternal and Committed

- “Nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Rom. 8:39
2. Love Described [Cont.]

f. Forgiving

“Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.” Col. 3:13
2. Love Described [Cont.]

g. Purifying and Constructive

“That He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.”

*Eph. 5:26–27*
2. Love Described [Cont.]

h. Practical

- “Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”
  1 John 3:18
Major Aspects of Communication

Albert Mehrabian, Silent Messages (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1971)

- **Words**: 7%
- **Non-verbal**: 55%
- **Tone of voice**: 38%
B. He is a Servant – **LEADER**

- “For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church…” *Eph 5:23*

- **What godly leadership is NOT:**

- **What godly leadership IS:**
Christlike Love & Humility

Phil 2:5-11

- Submissive
- Servant (bondslave)
- Sacrifice
C. He is a Patient **LONG-SUFFERER**

- “Husbands love your wives, and do not be harsh (embittered) with them”

  *Col 3:19*
D. He is a Humble LEARNER

“You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.”

1 Pet. 3:7
Roles & Responsibilities of the Wife

She is Glorifying and Submissive to God, and in many ways like the Church, when:
A. She is loving and HEEDING Her Husband’s Leadership (in non-sinful Requests)

“Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.”

_Eph 5:24_
An Unmarried Man & Woman

- Equal in Essence
- Equal in Function (except in Church Leadership)

Sister  

Brother
A Married Man & Woman

Submission

38+ One-Another:
- Equal in Essence
- Different in Function
  (except in Church Leadership and in the Home)

Submission

Wife (& Sister)

Submission

Husband (& Brother)
B. She is **HONORING** Her Husband (Reverential Towards)

- “…and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” *Eph 5:33*
C. She is a **HELMATE** to Her Husband

- “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” *Gen 2:18*

- “Neither was man created for woman, but women for man.” *1 Cor 11:9*
D. She is **HOME-ATTENTIVE**

- *Prov 31:10-31* (for her husband and children first than on to others)

- “…to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind,…” *Titus 2:3-5*
Supplemental Material

1. Jay Adams
   a) *Christian Living in the Home* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1972)
   b) *From Forgiven to Forgiving* (Wheaton: Victor, 1989)
   c) *How to Overcome Evil* (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1977)


3. Wayne Mack


