

The Christian Wife

Purpose: To teach the biblical role of the Christian wife.

Ephesians 4:17-24

- What does this passage say about your attitude when you become a Christian? (“be made new in the attitude of your minds”) This includes marriage.
- Disciples want to see things from God's perspective. No longer “darkened in your understanding,” you want to know God's view of everything. He made you and knows what is best.

Genesis 2:18-24

- COMPANIONSHIP—it was not good for man to be alone!
 - ~ God's view: a team, friendship—two sets of strengths brought together.
 - ~ Time together should be a top priority. It's essential for building the friendship. (Husband not interested? Be patient and available.)
 - ~ Our husbands need what friends need: our attention, our interest, our warmth. They need appreciation and admiration.
 - ~ How are you doing as a companion to your husband?
- INTIMACY vs.24 “became one flesh”
 - ~ The world's view of sexuality is messed up! It's often based on selfishness. But God's design for intimacy is beautiful—a necessary emotional and physical bonding that is shared for a lifetime.
 - ~ **(I Corinthians 7:1-5)** The focus of physical intimacy is on giving to your spouse, as well as having your own needs met.
 - ~ You may need to get help working through stumbling blocks. Remember that God made us, he knows what we need, and he can help us get there.
- SUITABLE HELPER
 - ~ “suitable”—just right, fitting. Your husband needs your half of the team—your strengths, personality, feminine viewpoint.
 - ~ “helper”—not an assistant or subordinate. Greek: “ezer”—means lifesaver. This word is sometimes used to refer to God. In this context it means a strong person who supports and provides assistance to someone in real need.
 - ~ You will need to learn how truly to help your husband by meeting his needs, rather than pushing his buttons.

Proverbs 31:10-31

- CHRIST-LIKE EXAMPLE (vss. 10-12)
 - ~ God's plan is for the wife to bring her husband good, not harm all the days of her life. Because of her, the husband lacks nothing of value! How Christ-like!
- MANAGER (vss. 13-27)
 - ~ What stands out to you about the wife in these verses? (hands-on, detail-oriented, strong, eager, busy, resourceful, etc.)
 - ~ We see two different roles here working side by side. The husband is a leader, making decisions at the city gate. The wife is more of a manager (“selects”, “provides”, “considers”, “watches over the affairs”, etc.) Both roles are important and essential to the team.

Ephesians 5:22-23; 1 Peter 2:13-3:6

- SUBMISSION
 - ~ The submission of the wife makes it possible for the husband to fulfill his God-given role of leader. Godly submission does not depend on whether your husband deserves it or not (vs.18), or whether you agree or not.
 - ~ Submission is not being a weak person (a “doormat”). Jesus’ example shows that it takes strength of character and trust in God. Submission is a choice. (Outwardly, it may look the same as weakness or being manipulated, but what is going on in the heart is completely different.)
 - ~ The only exception to submitting to the authorities God puts in our lives is if their wishes conflict with God’s commands. (Example: **Acts 4:18-20**)

Ephesians 5:33

- RESPECT
 - ~ Why do you think the Bible uses the word “must” in referring to respect? (It is so foreign in our world.)
 - ~ How do you speak to your husband around the house? Do you give him as much respect as you do your friends?
 - ~ No matter how the husband is behaving, the wife can respect his worth as a person, and his position in God’s sight.

Ephesians 4:25—5:11

- NEW FORMS OF COMMUNICATION
 - ~ How can these verses be applied to your marriage? For example, falsehood (deceit) must give way to honesty; rage and anger must be replaced by kindness and compassion; bitterness needs to be replaced by forgiveness and love.

Challenge: Review these scriptures and think about ways you can start bringing your husband good and not harm in your marriage. Pray for God’s help to grow and change as a wife. When you follow his plan—it will always bring his blessing!