

God-Given Roles and Responsibilities in the Marriage and Family

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THE WOMAN

The Woman as a Wife

Her role:

“Submission” (Gr. *hupotasso* = “to place or arrange (tasso) under (hupo); be subject to; to submit; to obey.” Scripture references: Gen. 3:16 (rule over you); Eph. 5:22 (be in subjection); Eph. 5:24 (is subject); Tit. 2:5 (being in subjection, obedient to their own husbands, KJV); 1 Pet. 3:1, 5 (be(ing) in subjection).

The two-fold, God-given reason for her submission is given by Paul in 1 Tim. 2:11-14 (see also 1 Cor. 11:3, 7-10; 2 Cor. 11:3):

- (1) The man was made first
- (2) The woman was deceived and transgressed (she took a leading role in Gen. 3:6)

Her responsibilities toward her husband:

Spiritual

Do not lead him away from God (Gen. 3:6; 1 K. 11:3-4; Neh. 13:26; Job 2:9; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Cor. 7:16)

Be virtuous toward him (Prov. 9:13; 11:16, 22; 12:4; 30:20-23; 31:10)

Show him how to fear the Lord (Prov. 31:30)

Encourage him to be a leader (1 Tim. 3:1-13; especially verse 11)

Be in subjection (obedient) to him – “as unto the Lord ... in everything” (Eph. 5:22-24) ... “as is fitting in the Lord” (Col. 3:18) ... “that the word of God be not blasphemed (Tit. 2:5) ... “hoped in God” (1 Pet. 3:5)

Do the Lord’s work together (Acts 18:24ff)

Set the proper example as a Christian (1 Pet. 3:1-2)

Be righteous together (1 Pet. 3:7; Lk. 1:5-6)

Pray together (1 Pet. 3:7; Judges 13:8ff)

Physical

Help him suitably (Gen. 2:18, 24)

Leave and cleave to him (Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:5; Eph. 5:31; Gen. 24:58-60)

Fulfill his sexual needs (Gen. 2:24; Prov. 5:18-19; S. of S. 4:12 - 5:1; 1 Cor. 7:1-5)

Be affectionate; kiss him (S. of S. 8:1)

Be faithful and loyal to him (Prov. 2:17; 6:29; Mk. 10:12; Rom. 7:2-3; 1 Cor. 7:10, 39; 1 Tim. 5:9; Heb. 13:4)

Emotional

Be one with him (Gen. 2:24)

Love him (Tit. 2:4; Gr. *phileo* = friendship love; tender affection; see S. of S. 8:6-7)

Social

Be his companion; live joyfully with him; dwell closely with him (Gen. 2:18; Deut. 24:5; Prov. 2:17; Eccl. 9:9; Mal. 2:14; 1 Cor. 7:34; 1 Pet. 3:7)
Do enjoyable things together (S. of S. 7:10-12)

Her attitude toward her husband:

Do not despise him in your heart (2 Sam. 6:16)
Do not be contentious (Prov. 19:13; 21:9)
Be prudent (Prov. 19:14)
Do him good, not evil (Prov. 31:12)
Fear (revere, respect, venerate) him (Eph. 5:33; 1 Pet. 3:2; Sarah called Abraham “lord”, verse 6)
Have inner godliness (1 Tim. 2:9, 10)
Refuse old wives’ fables (1 Tim. 4:7)
Love him (Tit. 2:4)
Be sober-minded (sound, controlled) and chaste (pure) toward him (Tit. 2:5; 1 Pet. 3:2)
Be meek (mild, gentle, submissive) and quiet (still, peaceful) in spirit (1 Pet. 3:4)
Be holy, set apart, consecrated (1 Pet. 3:5)

The Woman as a Mother

Her role: (see above)

Her responsibilities toward her children:

Spiritual

Teach them God’s word (Deut. 6:6-9; Psa. 78:5-7; Prov. 1:8; 6:20; 13:1; 23:24; 31:1, 26; Lk. 2:52; 2 Tim. 3:15)
Lead them to serve the Lord through her own example (Acts 16:1; 2 Tim. 1:5; Heb. 11:23)
Set the right example for them (Ezek. 16:44)
Show them how to fear the Lord (Prov. 31:30)

Physical

Bear children (Gen. 1:28; 3:16; 9:1; 1 Tim. 2:15; 5:14)
Protect her child in the womb (Psa. 139:13)
Work to provide (Prov. 31:13-25; Acts 16:13)
Be busy managing the household (1 Tim. 5:10, 14); not idle (1 Tim. 5:13)
Keeper at home; homemaker (Tit. 2:5; Prov. 14:2; 31:27)

Corrective

Instruct them and correct them (Prov. 13:24; 19:18; 22:6, 15; 23:13-14; 29:15, 17, 19)
Cause them to obey (Prov. 15:5; 30:17; Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20)

Her attitude toward her children:

Joy (Jn. 16:21)
Love them (Prov. 4:3; Tit. 2:4; Gr. *phileo*)
Have natural affection (Isa. 49:15; Rom. 1:31; 2 Tim. 3:3; Gr. *astorgee*)
Remember God gives you the children (Psa. 113:9)