



# *Biblical Womanhood in Marriage*

by Jeanne Vincent | August 20, 2017

*Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone;  
I will make him a helper suitable for him."*

Genesis 2:18

*Therefore, I will always be ready **to remind you** of these things,  
**even though you already know them, and have been**  
**established in the truth which is present with**  
**you.** <sup>13</sup> *I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly  
dwelling, **to stir you up by way of reminder.****

2 Peter 1:12-13

# I. Obstacles to Obedience

## A. FLESH

## B. FOE – Satan

1 Peter 5:8 *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

## C. FOCUS

1. Focus on self
2. Focus on husband
3. Focus on others
4. Focus must be on God and His commands

## D. FEAR



“If we thoroughly understand and believe what power is in God’s hand to defend us, what tenderness is in his Heart to help us, and what faithfulness is in His promises, our hearts will be calm – our courage will grow stronger and our fear will grow weaker.” – John Flavel

## E. FAITHLESSNESS

## II. God's design for the husband / wife relationship (Genesis 2:18-24)

### A. The woman was created for a particular purpose

#### 1. For man

1 Corinthians 11:9 *For indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.*

#### 2. To be man's glory

1 Corinthians 11:7 *For a man . . . is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. <sup>8</sup> For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man.*

She brings man glory when she displays how wonderfully she serves the purposes for which she was created: to rule under him and to be "for him."

#### 3. To be a companion to the man – It wasn't good or beneficial for the man to be alone.

#### 4. To be a suitable helper to the man – What is a suitable helper?

- Genesis 2:18b (AMP) *I will make him a helper [one who balances him—a counterpart who is] suitable and complementary for him.*
- Genesis 2:18b (ESV) *I will make him a helper fit for him.*
  - Fitting like a glove
  - "How can I help my husband today?"

### III. God's plan for us to fit our husbands

#### A. Love (Titus 2:3-5)

##### 1. Bible description (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a)

*Love is patient (shows restraint, puts up with people), love is kind (giving) and is not jealous (zealous for self); love does not brag and is not arrogant,<sup>5</sup> does not act unbecomingly (rudely, discourteously); it does not seek its own (not thinking of myself and what people owe me), is not provoked (exasperated), does not take into account a wrong suffered (doesn't keep track of wrongs),<sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;<sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.<sup>8</sup> Love never fails.*

2. Not a feeling; it is a choice. . .

3. Challenges or obstacles that keep us from loving our husbands as God commands:

a. Wrong focus on husband –

- focus on his faults, and failures, rather than on his strengths and needs
  - “Your job as a wife is to stay sensitive to your husband’s strengths.” – Gary Thomas
- focus on his meeting needs of mine that only God can

b. Wrong focus on ourselves

c. Wrong focus on our children

Elizabeth George, in her book, *A Woman's High Calling*, says that the “chief challenge” young mothers face is making sure that their love for their husbands doesn't get “crowded out.”

4. Our hearts must focus on obeying God's command to us.



Our obedience is to be a “willing, determined love that is not based on a husband’s worthiness but on God’s command, and that is extended by a wife’s affectionate and obedient heart.”

– John MacArthur, Jr.

## B. Submit (1 Peter 3:1-6)

1. Definition of submission – “to yield oneself to the authority or will of another, to defer to, or consent to abide by the opinion or authority of another: the condition of being humble or compliant; to arrange under.”

2. Description of submission
  - a. Voluntary

- b. Exclusive – to our own husbands

Ephesians 5:22 *Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*

- c. All inclusive – in everything

Ephesians 5:24 *But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.*

- d. This is the proper way that God designed marriage to work.

Colossians 3:18 *Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

1 Corinthians 11:3 *But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.*

3. God's design does not indicate that the wife is inferior to the husband.
  - a. Both were made in the image of God.  
(Genesis 1:2)
  - b. Believing spouses are heirs together of the grace of life.
  - c. Husband has the job of knowing his wife and loving her like Christ loved the church.
  
4. Follow Christ's example (Philippians 2:5-8)

5. This submission is in reality to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:22 *Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*

6. Possible results of submission
  - a. God can use a wife's submission to draw her husband to salvation, or to growth in grace, to influence him profoundly – even for all eternity!
  - b. What does this submission look like?  
(1 Peter 3:4-6)
  
7. Consequences of not submitting –
  - a. God's words will be dishonored.
  - b. My children will learn from my example of rebellion.

## C. Do Him Good

Proverbs 31:12 *She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.*

1. Care for the needs of the household and family
  - a. Proverbs 31:27 *She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.*
  - b. Proverbs 31:11 *The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.*
  - c. Proverbs 12:4 *An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who shames him is like rotteness in his bones.*
  - d. Proverbs 14:1 *The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands.*

### 2. Meet His needs for physical intimacy

Hebrews 13:4 *Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*

- a. God designed physical intimacy as a special union for the husband and wife.
- b. It is a legitimate need of our husbands.
- c. It is a safeguard against immorality.  
(1 Corinthians 7:2-5)
- d. We should be ready to joyfully give of ourselves to meet our husband's needs.  
(Proverbs 5:15-19)

## D. Respect Him

### 1. Commanded of wives

Ephesians 5:33b *and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.*

### 2. Fuller description

Ephesians 5:33b (AMP) *and the wife [must see to it] that she respects and delights in her husband [that she notices him and prefers him and treats him with loving concern, treasuring him, honoring him, and holding him dear.*

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you,  
so that always having all sufficiency in everything,  
you may have an abundance for every good deed.*

2 Corinthians 9:8

*“A true wife is her husband’s better half, his lump of delight, his flower of beauty, his guardian angel, and his heart’s treasure. He says to her, ‘I shall in thee most happy be. In thee, my choice, I do rejoice. In thee I find content of mind. God’s appointment is my contentment.’ In her company he finds his earthly heaven; she is the light of his home; the comfort of his soul, and (for this world) the soul of his comfort. Whatever fortune God may send him, he is rich so long as she lives. HIS RIB IS THE BEST BONE IN HIS BODY.”*

– Charles Spurgeon

*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,  
and to make you stand in the presence of His glory  
blameless with great joy.*

Jude 24