

# Spirit Controlled Family

Part I, Role of Wife (Ephesians 5:22-24)

# Romans 13:1a

<sup>1</sup> Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities.

# Titus 3:1

- <sup>1</sup> Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,

# 1 Peter 5:5

5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

# Luke 2:51a

<sup>51</sup> And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them;

**“Until about 1970, our culture fed off the residue of traditional Christianity; since that time we have seen a dramatic and rapid shift to an essentially pagan ethos. Today the primary areas in which Christianity is pressured by the culture to conform are on issues of gender and sexuality. Post-moderns and ethical relativists care little about doctrinal truth claims. These seem to them innocuous, archaic, and irrelevant to life. What they do care about, and care about with a vengeance, is whether their feminist agenda and sexual perversions are tolerated, endorsed, and expanded in an increasingly neo-pagan landscape. Because that is what they care most about. It is precisely here that Christianity is most vulnerable.” – B. Ware**

**“Whenever we have trouble with God’s Word, we need to remember that God is infinitely wise and good. Anything He says is for our good and is the best possible plan. Many things in God’s Word may cause us to react negatively, but always consider the nature of the God giving these commands.”**

**– T. Merida**

# Galatians 3:28

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



**“Not Good” here is strong language. It indicates not only the absence of something good but a substantial deficiency.**

– U. Cassuto

# Psalm 22:19

<sup>19</sup> But You, O LORD, be not far off;  
O You my help, hasten to my  
assistance.

# Psalm 54:4

4 Behold, God is my helper;  
The Lord is the sustainer of my  
soul.

**“The function of the helper would be complementary to the man’s – ‘a helper fit for him’ – literally, ‘like opposite him’ or ‘according to his opposite’. The woman would be a corresponding counterpart. As a counterpart she would share in his nature. Male and female were created in the image of God (cf. 1:27). And as his matching opposite, she would supply what was lacking in him.”**

**– K. Hughes**

**“Male and female were created by God as equal in dignity, value, essence and human nature, but also distinct in role whereby the male was given the responsibility of loving authority over the female, and the female was to offer willing, glad-hearted and submissive assistance to the man. Gen. 1:26-27 makes clear that male and female are equally created as God’s image, and so are, by God’s created design, equally and fully human. But, as Gen. 2 bears out (as seen in its own context and as understood by Paul in I Cor. 11 and I Tim. 2), their humanity would find expression differently, in a relationship of complementarity, with the female functioning in a submissive role under the leadership and authority of the male.” – B. Ware**

**“We are not sinless any more. But we believe that recovery of mature manhood and womanhood is possible by the power of God’s Spirit through faith in His promises and in obedience to His Word. In the home when a husband leads like Christ and a wife responds like the bride of Christ, there is a harmony and mutuality that is more beautiful and more satisfying than any pattern of marriage created by man. *Biblical headship* for the husband is the divine calling to take primary responsibility for Christlike, servant leadership, protection and provision in the home. *Biblical submission* for the wife is the divine calling to honor and affirm her husband’s leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts. This is the way of joy. For God loves His people and He loves His glory.”**

**– Grudem and Piper**

**“We know that there are thousands of women who rail against this, and there are thousands of men who obviously give them just cause. But a Christian woman will nevertheless desire and seek to live up to God’s standard. Moreover, this is what wives really want. We hear much to the contrary today, particularly from women’s liberation spokespersons, and we might therefore think that women want to dominate their husbands – and should, if they have the brains and will to do it.**

**But this is the devil's lie. No good woman (indeed, hardly any woman at all) wants a man she can boss around. She wants a man she can look up to, whose judgment she can respect, and whose leadership she can respond to. If she does not get this in her man, she feels cheated. True, wives are sinners like their husbands. Wives will press their husbands on the question of mastery. They will fight for their own way. But deep inside, what wives really want is a man who will rule them and their home – gently and with love, to be sure – but rule them nevertheless.” – J. Boice**



**“To have a marriage that sings requires a Spirit-created ability to serve, to take yourself out of the center, to put the needs of others ahead of your own. The Spirit’s work of making the Gospel real to the heart weakens the self-centeredness in the soul. It is impossible for us to make major headway against self-centeredness and move into a stance of service without some kind of supernatural help. The deep happiness that marriage can bring, then, lies on the far side of sacrificial service in the power of the Spirit. That is, you only discover your own happiness after each of you has put the happiness of your spouse ahead of your own, in a sustained way, in response to what Jesus has done for you.”– T. Keller**