

MARITAL COUNSELLING

ROLE OF THE WIFE/MOTHER

The supreme hallmark of a Spirit-controlled family is not happiness, children or prosperity. It is rather obedience to the Word of God. Happiness and fulfilment in life comes as a direct result of our obedience to God's Word.

"Blessed (happy) rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Luke 11:28

"Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD."

Psalms 119:1

"Now that you know these things you will be blessed if you do them."

John 13:17

Therefore, the 2 requirements for happiness are hearing the Word of God and putting into practise what we hear. In other words,

Hearing the + Keeping the = HAPPINESS
Word of God Word of God

Most people are searching for happiness in life. Often they look to marriage to fulfil that happiness. It is never found as a **result of a quest** but rather as a **result of obedience** to the known will of God. The longest portion of Scripture in the New Testament dealing with the family (Ephesians 5:17-6:4) shows us the result of a Spirit-controlled life.

1. A Song in our Heart - 5:19
2. A Thanksgiving Attitude - 5:20
3. A Submissive Spirit - 5:21-24; 6:1-3

God has clearly outlined the role of the man and woman. Just as we have complementary physical characteristics, so we also have complementary roles. The success of these roles demands a consistent cooperation by both partners. Partners who truly submit to each other have no difficulty accepting the Biblical teaching on roles or subjecting themselves to them, and thus they help each other fulfil those roles.

I. The Wife as a Helpmeet or Subordinate

A. A "helpmeet" is one who can adequately fulfil the needs of her partner (Ephesians 5:22).

B. A true filling of the Holy Spirit will cause and enable a woman to submit to her husband in love. "Submission" does not imply that a woman is stripped of her rights, and reduced to a "slave." On the contrary, submission allows her **MORE** freedom because she is following the commands of God and walking in the "paths of righteousness."

C. Submission does not mean suppression or silence. A loving husband who is wise will seek insights of his wife before he makes the final decision.

D. True submission is in force only when the wife's **attitudes** and **actions** are in complete agreement.

E. In God's eyes there is a balance in roles.

"In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman."

I Corinthians 11:11

Man is the head of the family, the image and glory of God, whereas,

"The woman is the glory of man."

I Corinthians 11:7

F. A wife is only required to submit to her husband "as to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:22). If a woman refuses to submit to her husband and begins to dominate him, she will destroy that part of him that is God's design - his leadership capability.

The woman who nags generates one of two responses . . .

1. He becomes stubborn, irritable and obstinate
2. He gives in to keep peace, though inside he begins to resent her and harbours bitterness in his heart.

G. In the later years when child raising is complete, the woman who never learned submission, will shift her domination from her children to her husband.

I. The Wife as a Helpmeet or Subordinate (Contd.)

H. Why should a wife submit to her husband?

1. She will never be a Spirit-filled woman unless she does.
2. She presently has or will ultimately experience a time when her emotional needs will only be met through her husband.
3. Every husband needs his wife to submit.
4. Children need a mother's submission to grow up with normal sexual direction and proper role models.

II. The Wife as Lover

A. The *"older women"* are to *"train the younger to love their husbands and children"* (Titus 2:3,4)

B. The Bible teaches men more often to love their wives because women seem to have emotional natures that causes them to love easier.

C. As love grows (not a one-sided affair) it will eventually be able to be beautifully expressed as you confirm your intimacy on your wedding night.

D. Normally the wife is a "responder" to her husband's love, but it is also in God's order for her to be the "initiator from time to time." (I Corinthians 7:3,4).

E. A wife should try to meet her husband at night with a tidy home, supper cooking and herself clean and fresh looking (not in her morning nightgown and curlers in her hair).

F. When the children see mom and dad exhibit appropriate expressions of love, it helps to build a secure atmosphere around them.

III. The Wife as a Mother/Teacher

- A. A child needs the tender care of a mother who will serve unselfishly and untiringly without expecting anything much in return during their early life.
- B. Remember that "*Children are a gift from God; they are his reward*" (Psalm 127:3 Living Bible)
- C. God has given us a Book of Proverbs to teach us how to train and prepare our children for life
- D. Both parents must unite on the teaching and discipline of their children at an early age.
- E. A simple formula on how to develop your child's temperament is:

Instruction + Love + Insistence = Effective Training

- F. The joy of training comes when you begin to see results from applying God's Word.

IV. The Wife as a Home Manager

- A. The husband is to be the supervisor of the home, but the wife does the actual managing.
- B. The word "**husband**" means "**house-band.**" He is the one who "binds" the home together.
- C. The word "**wife**" means "**weaver.**" She is the one who uses her clever hands to weave into the family fabric the beautiful designs which produces much joy and blessing.

IV. The Wife as a Home Manager (Contd.)

D. The Twentieth-Century Woman of Proverbs

31:10 An excellent wife is hard to find. She cannot be bought with expensive jewels or fancy sports cars. Her inner beauty cannot be purchased -- it is far greater than money can buy.

31:11 Her husband trusts her with all his possessions. He is not concerned that she will drain the checkbook or run up the charge account for her own whims. Rather, she will help to save and economize in order to establish financial security.

31:12 She is a devoted helpmeet for his good, a "responder" to his love, one who lives for his fulfilment.

31:13 She decorates her home, keeps the house tidy, and even mops the floor with a song in her heart and praise on her lips.

31:14 She shops wisely at the local supermarket and fresh-vegetable stands for the best buys in food and provides well-balanced nutritious meals that are attractively served.

31:15 She rises early in the morning and serves a good breakfast to her husband and children before driving her children to school and starting her day's schedule.

31:16 She holds tupperware parties. From the money she earns she pays her children's tuition for Christian education.

31:17 She goes to the local health club and exercises her body to keep physically fit and strong.

31:18 She senses when her muscles are well toned, because she can keep up with the busy pace of her family well into the evening.

31:19 She picks up needlepoint when she sits down and keeps her hands busy.

31:20 She makes time to assist those who are needy, making soup and casseroles for the sick neighbours and arranging time for volunteer charity work for the poor.

31:21 She is a season ahead, planning what warm clothes will be needed for the family before the snow begins to fall.

31:22 She selects her own wardrobe carefully and is well groomed in modest apparel. She is not seen outside her home with curlers in her hair, nor does she dress to gain attention.

31:23 Her husband is a respected businessman among the leaders of the community.

31:24 She operates a ladies' boutique from her home (some might call it a garage sale), selling some of the lovely articles she has made or created.

IV. The Wife as a Home Manager (Contd.)

D. The Twentieth-Century Woman of Proverbs (Contd.)

31:25 Charm and self-confidence are her characteristics, and she faces the future with joy and hope.

31:26 She speaks with wisdom from studying the Word of God, and her life is an example of kindness to others.

31:27 She manages her home with great care and does not sit around idly watching T.V. or chatting with her friends on the phone.

31:28 Her children love and respect her, and her husband sings her praises, saying:

31:29 "You my darling, are the greatest woman God could have given me."

31:30 A charming and beautiful woman can be deceiving, but a woman who reveres the Lord shall be praised.

31:31 Her children and her community, who know her well, will see all that she has done and will admire and praise her.

V. The Wife as an Ideal Feminine Beauty

A. This is where the real woman's beauty is -- "the hidden woman of the heart." A woman's physical beauty will deteriorate and fade with age, but her inner beauty will become more beautiful as she matures in Christ.

B. A woman's appearance, grooming, and her size are indications of who controls her life (or used to control her life) Jesus or self.

C. A woman's adornment should not be extreme or call attention to the "outer woman." (I Peter 3:3,4)

D. It is the quality of a gentle and quiet spirit that is precious in the sight of God.

E. The beauty in a woman is seen when her life shows forth the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:16,22,23)