

## The Dynamic Marriage

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### Equal but Different Our View of His Roles for Us

**Key Thought: Our marriage will thrive when we both submit to God's divine order.**

#### God's Perspective on Man and Women

Gen 1:27

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. NIV

Gal 3:28-29

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

- Bottom line is that man "ish" and woman "isha" were created to know and glorify God.
- God views, loves and accepts both genders equally. They are equal in essence and standing as they come before God.
- Key here is that we are all on a level playing field with God. We ALL need salvation and we all need God's grace and mercy alive and working in our lives. There is an absolute oneness as believers in Christ.
- Biblical roles flow out of relationship:
  - With Christ
  - With each other in covenant and in obedience to scripture.

#### God's Perspective on Husband and Wife

Eph 5:21-33

Biblical "Giving of Love" and "Extending Respect" is birthed from our "equal" status.

- A husband loves "his own body" and won't hurt it...so too the love of his wife is that intimate and protective.
- A wife feels safe as she receives a well laid out "love plan" for their lives. She is free to grow in safety...not under a dictatorship.
- The Husband is the "head" of his wife and the servant leader to his wife.
- The wife is the one that "responds to" submits to the husband's servant leadership.... "living our lives with wet feet"
- The authority/receptive relationship run "counter culture" to the 21<sup>st</sup> century marriage of the world and the church.
- Eph 5 indicates that our marriage purpose is to reflect Christ's love for the church. How: revering God's Word transforms the culture we live in. Not the other way around.

## His Role:

### 1 Cor 11:3-4 Headship

3 Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. NIV

- This is about relationship not authority. The relationship of Christ and the church/the relationship of the husband and the wife are all about glorifying God.
- A husband is passing on the headship of Christ in his life into his wife. So the love/grace/mercy/strength and forgiveness imparted by Christ into the man is now released into his wife as a *servant leader*.
- The husbands "headship" is the embodiment of love for his wife.(Christ and the church)

### 1 Peter 3:7 Partner/ fellow heir

7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. NIV

- This is about unity as a couple fulfilling God's plan
- The authority placed on the husband is to move everything out of the way for the growth, and blessing of the wife. His intimate knowledge of her is key in ministering life to her....not for his pleasure, but for the one that he is submitted to > Christ.
- He reveals his heart to his wife by:
  - **Actively** loving her in tangible ways. Intimacy>In-to-me-see creates a loving relationship that will cause the security of a wife to be established.
    - 1 Corinthians 13 reveals the "love" that is to come from the heart of the husband to the wife....it is often just the opposite.
  - **Understanding her through God's eyes** as a special blessing in his life.
    - 2 Tim 2:15-16 What does God say about your wife?  
15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. NIV

## Her Role

### 1 Peter 3:7 Partner/ fellow heir

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- Respond to his desire to protect and empower you. Realize that you are both equal heirs of God's blessings in your life.BUT he is equipped to protect you.
- Release him to lead as a man, not another "weaker vessel"
- Men operate on> cause/companionship/conviction mode. The wives role is:
  - Encourage him in tasks ( encourage not nag)
  - Men's innate love language is "Words of affirmation"
    - His parenting skills are masculine
    - As a servant leader he thrives on being acknowledged not ignored.
- Respond to his desire to know you...even if it is cased in "fixing" things
- Men rise and fall on success and failure...emotional connection is anchored in the praise and criticism quota of your marriage.
- Help him learn about living out his servants heart for you in Christ.