

*Discipleship Lesson 10*

**Marriage  
The Role and  
Responsibility  
of the Wife**

*Key Memory Verse:*

*For this reason a man shall leave his father  
and mother and be joined to his wife,  
and the two shall become one flesh.*

*Ephesians 5:31*



# **Discipleship Lesson 10**

## **Marriage**

As you study this lesson you will understand why the following statements are **not true**.

1. God does not care whether it is the husband or wife who leads the home.
2. Women do not have to submit to their husbands because they are created equal in God's sight.
3. If you make as much money or more than your husband, you should be the one who makes the decisions.
4. God wants women to pursue a professional career regardless of what sacrifices their families have to make.

### **What Is the Role and Responsibility of the Wife?**

Marriage should be the best illustration of a true partnership. "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up." This lesson will help you become a better partner (Ecclesiastes 4:9–10).

### **Purpose**

A church is primarily made up of married couples, and the strength of any church is measured by the healthy relationships within it. The purpose of this lesson is to strengthen your marriage by understanding the role and responsibility of the wife.

## Introduction

Marriage can produce the deepest joy and happiness that two people can ever experience. But marriage can also produce the darkest and saddest experiences in life. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your marriage? \_\_\_\_\_ (1 poor–10 great)

Regardless of the condition of your marriage, God's Word has all of the answers. God is the one who designed marriage and gave us the original blueprints. Before you begin building a house, you must have a set of blueprints approved by your city or county. Without the right blueprints, you will make many costly mistakes.

Today, too many people are trying to build a marriage without any blueprints. Worse yet, they have had no role model of a successful marriage growing up because they have either come from a divorced home or were raised in a home without Christian values. Sadly, many couples live for years in conflict without seeking spiritual guidance to understand God's design for marriage. On top of that, many couples in trouble today have no one to help them understand what God's Word (the original blueprints) really means.

So it is no wonder that the majority of marriages fail today. A great number of married couples are unhappy and looking for a way out because they have lost hope that their marriage will ever improve. Biblical marriage works if you use the right blueprints, and that is our purpose in this lesson.

## I. The Most Important Verse on Marriage

### Read Genesis 2:18–25

Study verse 24 (God repeats this truth three other times in Scripture—Matthew 19:5; Mark 10:7–8; Ephesians 5:31). Write out the three key parts of verse 24, and what you think each part means.

Principle #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Application—How does this principle apply to my marriage?

Principle #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Application—How does this principle apply to my marriage?

Principle #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Application—How does this principle apply to my marriage?

## Notes and Questions

## **II. The Role of the Wife**

### **A. God's purpose for women. (Genesis 2:18–20)**

1. What was the first thing God called “not good”?
2. Some teach that women were created only to solve the problem of companionship, to solve man's loneliness. The woman did solve that problem, but that was not the main reason for her creation.

Note verse 20. What does God call the woman?

The word means “an assistant,” someone who comes alongside.

3. What kind of a helper was Eve to be? See verses 18, 20.

The Hebrew word means “suitable in every particular need”: mentally, spiritually, emotionally, socially, and physically.

4. What did God want Eve to help Adam accomplish? See Genesis 1:28.

Note that God gave both of them the same purpose. Yet you cannot have two heads with one purpose but the same purpose given to both, with one being the helper and the other as the head or the leader.

Obviously, Adam needed a helper to multiply and have children but, much more importantly, to fulfill his commission to subdue and have dominion over the earth.

If a woman does not help her husband, is she fulfilling her biblical role? yes - no

5. In Genesis 2:20, note the word *comparable*. To be comparable means to be suitable in every need, to be his perfect counterpart. And yet people say all the time, “my wife is so different” or “my husband is so different.” Remember, that is exactly how God made them to be.

B. In what other way is the woman comparable to the man?

Genesis 1:26–27 Both were created in the

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This means that neither the man nor the woman has a position of favor before God. So in the eyes of God, a man and a woman are **equal in their position before Him yet not in their function**. The commission to subdue and have dominion over the earth is not just given to Adam but also to Eve. The role that each of them play was to be different. The man is to lead, and the woman is to follow.

Read the following scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:3, 8, 9, 11, 12.

1. Who determines if a wife is fulfilling her God-given role as a helper?
2. A key question for wives to ask is “How am I helping my husband?”  
Name two ways:

How many of you have heard the expression “behind every great man is a greater woman”? This is true, and there are few, if any, exceptions.

3. Discuss ways in which you may be competing with (trying to take control of) your husband instead of completing him.

Genesis 2:18–20 makes it clear that a wife’s role in life is to be a helper and completer to her husband, to assist him in fulfilling his dreams, his goals, his mission in life.

## Notes and Questions:

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### III. The Responsibility of the Wife

When God designed mankind, He made us to enjoy order, not chaos; peace, not conflict; harmony, not hostility. To be able to enjoy order, peace and harmony, two principles must be at work: leadership and *followship*.

- A. These two principles are seen in every aspect of our society.  
In the following verses write down:

Who is to lead	Who is to follow
1. Ephesians 6:5–9	
2. Romans 13:1–5	
3. Hebrews 13:7, 17	
4. Ephesians 6:1	
5. 1 Peter 5:5a	

According to 1 Peter 5:5b, what causes someone to not submit to the principle of authority?

If you submit to God's plan, what will God do for you in due time? See 1 Peter 5:6.

**Principle:** When people fight against authority at any level, they reveal that they have a problem with God's authority (1 Peter 2:9–15).

- B. What then is the responsibility of a wife to her husband? Read Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1; Titus 2:4–5.

Wives, if you want to have peace, harmony, and order that lead to success in your marriage, you must understand and willingly submit to God's plan.

What exactly does the word submission mean? The Greek word *hupotasso* is primarily a military word which means to rank under, to subject, to be in following, and to put under.

This command (not suggestion) to a wife means that when a wife refuses to align herself underneath her husband to support and follow him, she is sinning against God.

It is important to note that this word shows that a wife is to submit willingly. In other words, a wife is not to be made to submit by her husband.

Wives, this has nothing to do with your husband. It has everything to do with your willingness to choose. It is a choice of your will, not of your emotions.

The world tells you to compete with your husband, usurp his authority, and not to let anyone tell you what to do. You might make as much money or more than he does, so you should also make the decisions. But God says if you want peace, harmony, and order that lead to a successful marriage, you must be willing to submit to your husband's leadership.

C. Five characteristics of submission.

1. The submission of a woman is to be "only" to what man? See Colossians 3:18.

**The issue of submission is not male and female; it is about whom you are married to.**

2. Your submission is to reflect the right attitude. How does 1 Peter 3:3–4 describe that attitude?

## Notes and Questions



## Notes and Questions:

3. Your submission is to be in what areas? See Ephesians 5:24.

Give two examples. (Note: This does not mean in anything immoral, illegal, or unethical.)

4. What does 1 Corinthians 7:2–5 teach you should not withhold from your husband?

What is the only biblical reason to say no to your husband in this area?

On a scale of 1 to 10, how would your husband rate your sex life? (1 poor–10 great)

5. Your submission gives God the opportunity to change your husband (1 Peter 3:1).

**The “duck” principle:**

Many wives don’t want to give up control because they are afraid that things will get worse. It takes faith to give up control to someone else, but God will not chasten your husband for areas of disobedience while you are competing with him for the head of your home. For God to do so would give you the impression that your disobedience works.

When you duck and get behind your husband, it gives God an opportunity to put pressure on him and bring him to a place of biblical change. Then you can see that God does honor your submission and God gets all the glory.



#### IV. Practical Application

A. Instead of continually nagging your husband, which only leads to \_\_\_\_\_, what should you do? See Proverbs 17:14, 20:3.

B. Wives, name two areas in which you will begin practicing more biblical submission toward your husband.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

C. Name two important truths or principles that stood out to you from this lesson.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Notes and Questions:



