

Marriage



MARRIAGE PART 18 - THE ROLE OF THE WIFE

This resource will cover the role of the wife. We will be looking at Ephesians 5:22 as our main scripture reference.

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

This would have to be one of the most controversial passages in the Scriptures, especially from a woman's perspective, but is this because we have no true reference for what God is really saying or His design of marriage?

If we truly carry a conviction that the Scriptures are inspired by God, then we must wrestle for His version of what He is saying and not apply our understanding or experience to His words of spirit and life.

Some versions say submit, while the New American Standard Bible says, "***subject yourself to your husband.***"

The wife is instructed by God to do one thing in this verse.

1. To subject herself to her husband as she is to the Lord

The word subject means "belonging to one's self". Belong to your husband as you belong to the Lord.

What instruction comes first? Belong to your husband or belong to the Lord?

Belonging to the Lord must first inform, enable and empower what belonging to one's husband is.

Here are four reasons why;

1. The wife won't live this instruction out.
2. The wife won't be able to live this instruction out
3. The wife will live out a fleshly counterfeit version of it.
4. It's the only chance the wife has at being able to live out this Godly instruction the way God intends.

The question each wife must ask herself is, "What does it mean to belong to the Lord?"

What does it mean for her to have lost her life for Christ's sake and no longer be living for herself.

A wife who has lost herself for His sake no longer belongs to herself, but she is Christ's and Christ's alone.

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God gives the wife a divine instruction which is purely breath taking. To belong to her husband as she is to her Christ - wow.

This is a mind-boggling reality and something that we can not get our minds around. This is an instruction of the heart and one of extreme significance.

What an honour and a joy it is to belong to the Lord. What a joy and an honour it is to become one with the Lord. To have His heart, His mind, His love, His spirit, and so in turn belong to your husband.

Belonging to one's husband is an outcome of belonging to the Lord. It is not the goal or purpose and it certainly is not a functional task given to the woman.

A wife belonging to her husband will be an innate expression of the eternal life that is being formed within her. This wisdom demonstrated will be the evidence and proof of her belonging to the Lord Himself. She will not have to try to belong to her husband, she just will.

Luke 7:35 "Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

This is the most secure, comforting, supportive and life giving position for any wife, and one she is wired and designed for. It is where God has created her to be and live from.

Through the fellowship or spiritual oneness she has with her Lord, she will be fully empowered to belong or be subject to her husband in everything as the Scriptures declares.

It becomes truly clear where a husband and wife's primary attention and devotion needs to be anchored. Not on one another but on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 12:1-2 "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

QUESTIONS

1. What has been your understanding of what it is for a wife to subject or submit herself to her husband?
2. Why is it essential that a wife be in subjection to the Lord first?

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3. How does this teaching change the way you now see this instruction?
4. If you are a wife where do you see yourself in relation to being in subjection to the Lord and your husband in everything?
5. Why is both the husband's and the wife's individual intimate relationship with the Lord so essential in the living out of these God given roles?

Watch the accompanying You Tube videos here: <https://youtu.be/PWrNaZSZTIs>