

Introduction: What's a woman to do?

1. The evolution of the American female

2. The mother-absent family

3. The impact of changing roles

- Men: _____ income family
- Women: _____ jobs
- Children: _____ little attention

4. The fundamental question:

- Are women's lives, marriages, and families _____ or _____, since the "PC" experiment?

Womanhood in our marriages and homes

1. It always begins with mutual _____.

. . . *and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.* Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)

- The metaphor of “The Dance”
- The meaning of “submission”

2. A great dance/marriage requires clarity of _____.

²²Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. ²⁴But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; ²⁶that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

²⁸So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, ³⁰because we are members of His body.

³³Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:22-33 (NIV)

Related Passages: 1 Peter 3:1-6; Colossians 3:18; 1 Corinthians 11:3

3. Wives are to “_____ - _____” and support, affirm, and encourage their husbands with strength and respect to lead their families in righteousness.

What does this mean?

- Wives must understand that marriage is not an _____ fifty/fifty proposition.
- Wives must _____ support their husbands from the heart as an act of obedience to Christ.
- Wives must believe that submission (“stepping in” vs. “stepping over”) is a woman’s _____; the key to bringing about positive change.

What this does not mean

- It doesn’t mean you are to be _____ or feel _____.
- It doesn’t mean that you _____ only when you think he’s right.
- It doesn’t mean that you _____ Scripture, reason, or morality to support your husband.
- It doesn’t mean you’re a _____.
- It doesn’t mean you use “submission” as a _____ to get your way.

Application/Discussion Questions:

1. What new insight did you gain concerning the roles of women in marriage?
2. How has our culture made it difficult to function according to God's design?
3. How have abuses in the church made it difficult to function according to God's design?
4. (Women) What specific steps do you need to take to become the woman God wants in your home?
5. (Men) What specific steps do you need to take to help your wife be the woman God wants her to be in your home?

Marriage that Works
Personal Commitment – Week 3

From this day forward...

- I will “step-in” and support, affirm, and encourage my husband with strength and respect in order to lead our family in righteousness.

Wives be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord... as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.
Ephesians 5:22a, 24b (NIV)

Signed

Date

I commit to pray for...

- Husbands and wives to be subject to one another in Christ.
- Wives to support, affirm, and encourage their husbands.
- Wives to be willing to trust God in areas they fear “letting go.”

...hear my voice when I call to You. May my prayer be set before You like incense...

Psalm 141:1-2 (NIV)