

Strengthening Your Marriage Seminar. The Wife's Role (Session # 3)

The God established role for the wife is to be a helpmeet to her husband (Gen. 2:18). She is to complement and complete (not compete with) her husband so that they can truly be "one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). She is of equal value onto logically (nature and essence, Gal. 3 :28), for she was created in the image of God (Gen. 1 :27). If a believer, she is recreated in Christ (2Cor. 5: 17). Her marital role is different just as is her physical nature.

The New Testament identifies a specific difference in marital roles in the area of submission. It is a word misunderstood and misused by Christians and non-Christians alike. The Greek word translated submit, subject, or obey is *hupotasso*. *Hupo* means under and *tasso* means order or arrange. Submission is not limited to wives alone. The following are all the Scriptures where *hupotasso* is found (Lk. 2:51, 10:17,20; Rom. 8:7,20, 10:3, 13, 13:5; 1Cor. 14:32,34,15:27-28,16:16; Eph. 1:22,5:21,22,24; Phil. 3:21; Col. 3:18; Tit. 2:5, 9, 3:1; Heb. 2:5, 8, 12:9; Jms. 4:7; 1Pet. 2:13, 18,3:1,5,22,5:5). However, within the marital relationship, wives are commanded to submit to their own husbands, as unto the Lord (Eph. 5 :22).

Remember, the purpose of marriage is to glorify God. It is a picture of the relationship between Christ and His church (Eph. 5:25-27). God's purpose for all His children is to conform us into the image and likeness of His Son (Rom. 8 :29). In salvation, Christ pays the **penalty** for our sins, called justification (Rom. 5: 1). We are being saved from the **power** of sin, called sanctification (1 Thess. 4:3). We will ultimately be saved from the **presence** of sin, called glorification (Rom. 8:30; 1Cor. 15:39-58). We are in the middle sanctification process. For those who are married, that process entails our fulfilling our proper roles (1 Cor. 11 :3). Since God ordained these roles, the wife's submission is ultimately "unto the Lord" (Eph. 5:22).

A good illustration of this can be found in Paul's discussion of women and submission in 1 Timothy 2:9-15. He states that women will be "saved in childbearing," as they continue in "faith, love, etc." The salvation he speaks of cannot mean justification or glorification, for then the unmarried or women who are barren cannot "be saved." He is speaking of the process of sanctification whereby God conforms the married woman more and more into the image and likeness of His Son by the responsibilities of motherhood.