

Wives, Be Wives

By Luann Rogers

Since at least the 1970's, the feminist movement has criticized and tried to erase the traditional, biblical image of "a wife" from the public's consciousness. In the 1971 premier issue of MS Magazine, author Judy Syfers penned a tongue-in-cheek article titled "Why I Want a Wife", poking fun at all the things a wife does. She concludes by asking, "...who wouldn't want a wife?" The secular world mocks and laughs at the role God has given wives, and many Christian women have accepted as legitimate this culture of ridicule. Even the word "wife" seems outdated: instead, you hear terms like "significant other" or "life partner", thus removing any hint of the God-given role for a woman married to a man.

Even though our culture changes (and has changed throughout time), the role God gave the wife has not changed. What does God say a wife is?

- "A help meet for her husband"— a companion comparable to him (Gen. 2:18-20)
- "Crown of her husband" (Prov. 12:4)
- "A good thing" (Prov. 18:22)
- "The weaker vessel" (1 Peter 3:7)
- "A companion" (Mal. 2:14)

A wife is NOT:

- A man
- A husband's mother
- A doormat
- A slave
- A trophy
- Someone to be taken lightly by her husband (Eph. 5:25)

Sister, if you do not want to be a wife, do not become one (you do have a choice!). If you want to be a wife, BE a wife!

Any organization, especially the home, must have an assignment of duties and leadership to keep things running smoothly. It is important for each member to fulfill their given role or the organization (home) winds up in chaos. Without a leader in place; either a power struggle ensues, or nothing gets done or decided: Either way, chaos results.

God gave distinctly different roles to husbands and wives. When we change or alter those roles, the family structure is weakened and confusion and conflict reign. Each member has equal value (Gal. 3:38), but different roles. Being a good and godly wife does not depend on having a good and godly husband (consider Abigail in 1 Samuel 25.)

To BE a wife who pleases God and your husband, do the following—

Submit to your husband (Eph. 5:22).

This instruction is ridiculed and misunderstood by the world. The world reads this as, "Husbands MAKE your wives submit", but this command is addressed to the wife (not the husband): she voluntarily places herself under his leadership. Submission is a way of life for all

faithful Christians, man or woman; it is not “for women only.” Both are told to “submit to God” (James 4:7), “to the elders” (Heb. 13:17), to “older people” (I Pet. 5:5),” and to “government rulers” (I Pet. 2:13). Even Christ submitted to the Father (Phil. 2:8; I Cor. 15:28).

Respect your husband (Eph. 5:33).

Respect is the key to a man's heart and is commanded by God. In her book “For Women Only,” Shaunti Feldhahn reports the results of having surveyed hundreds of men and identifies five key needs men have regarding respect. You should respect:

1. His judgment
2. His abilities
3. Him, in communication
4. Him, in public
5. Him, in your assumptions

Love your husband (Titus 2:4)

Applying Philippians 2:3-4 will help you show him your love. Be content with him and put his needs above yours. Discontentment is Satan’s greatest tool for destroying homes and happy marriages.

Be Faithful and Trustworthy (Prov. 31:11).

Adultery has become an accepted practice in our society. To guard against this temptation, keep your relationships with other men in check and be grateful for a faithful husband. 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 explains our responsibility regarding our own husband’s needs. Adultery will destroy your soul (Pro. 6:32) and keep you out of the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19-21).

Do him good and not evil (Prov. 31:12).

Take care of your household (Titus 2:5).

Be kind and forgiving toward him (Eph. 4:32).

If we stand in the place God has given us as wives, our homes will be stronger and happier. We will enable our husbands to be the leaders they are commanded to be, and we will please God.