

The Wife in the Home

The Christian Home - Pt.3

Int.

1. Aim: To show the duties and responsibilities of the woman as the wife in the home.
2. Man can have no greater gift than a good wife
 - a. "He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD."
Proverbs 18:22
 - b. The crowning act of all of God's creation and the most precious jewel of the abundant treasures to whom God has given life is WOMAN!
 - c. A wife is a husband's other self !
3. The word "WIFE" means a married woman
 - a. The wife must show herself to be a woman
 - b. She is no longer living in a world of dolls, and parties.
 - c. Now she is married and there are adjustments to make in establishing a home and building a happy and harmonious marriage, and preparing to rear a family.
 - d. The wife must be a woman no an immature little girl. Many marriages fail because of immaturity, but a woman will be mature and able to meet her responsibilities and obligations in making a happy home.
4. In this lesson we will discuss:
 - a. The wife's attitude toward her husband
 - b. The wife's duties toward her husband.

Discussion

I. THE WIFE'S ATTITUDE TOWARD HER HUSBAND

A. Love - Titus 2:4

1. Wedding vows:
2. A wife is to love her husband and allow that love to grow and flourish. If it does then the marriage will be beautiful, peaceful and bring the happiness that God desires in all marriages.
3. 1 Cor. 13 applies in all relationships especially in marriage. Think of how it applies to the wife in her love for her husband.
 - a. **"I will be patient and kind"**
 - (1) If there are little irritations I will forbear and not be critical.
 - (2) I will not nag but encourage, and appreciate every good quality and deed which is his.
 - b. **"I will not envy him"**
 - (1) There will never be a competitive spirit between us as to who can spend the money.
 - (2) I will not let jealousy eat at my heart and the heart of our home.
 - c. **"I will not be arrogant or conceited"**
 - (1) Pride shall not rule my heart.
 - (2) There can be no blending of personalities where one has a superiority-complex.
 - (3) "Let each esteem the other better than himself.

d. **"I will not behave myself unseemly or discourteously"**

- (1) I will not pout or be sullen
- (2) I will not fly off the handle.
- (3) I will not be vulgar or rude, or boorish or rough

e. **"I will not seek my own."**

- (1) I will not be selfish or self-centered
- (2) I will not think "Why didn't he do this to make me happy?", but "How can I make him happy"
- (3) Love does not insist on its own rights, but looks to the rights of the beloved.

f. **"I will not be easily irritated or provoked with his failings and faults."**

g. **"I will not take account of evil"**

- (1) I will be too big to harbor a wrong.
- (2) Love is able to forgive

h. **"I will not rejoice in unrighteousness but will rejoice in the truth."**

- (1) I will never be glad when he makes a mistake for we are one.
- (2) I will find no malicious pleasure in his failings nor continually draw his attention to them.
- (3) I will be glad in everything good about him and rejoice over his every success.

(4) I will never criticize him to others, but shield him from all attacks.

i. "I will bear all things" without resentment or bitterness.

j. "I will believe all things and hope all things."

k. "I will endure all things."

(1) Fidelity will be mine until death do us part.

(2) My love shall stand its ground and carry on

(3) I will prize our marriage above all human contracts

4. This love I have for my husband is for always. I will be affectionate and attentive and cherish his love.

5. Some wives constantly find fault with their husbands. They tell their friends what a bad husband he is and never have a good thing to say about him. These wives need to be reminded of who picked this man for their husband. If he is no good then they are publicly advertising the fact that they showed poor judgment in their choice of a husband !

6. Love will keep the wife from demeaning her husband before her friends.

B. Honor - Eph. 5:33

1. Honor - reverence, respect.

2. Respect is necessary in marriage.

3. A girl should not date a young man she does not respect, for should she marry him there is great danger that the marriage would fail.

4. A wife must honor and respect her husband as a man, as head of the house, as breadwinner, and later as the father of her children.
5. Sarah called Abraham "Lord", which shows respect and great regard for his place and his person. - I Pet. 3:6
6. The man who lives up to the scriptural standard which was discussed in the lesson about the husband will be the kind of man for whom the wife can develop genuine and lasting respect.

C. **Obey** - Eph. 5:22

1. The Bible says that the husband is to be the head of the house.
2. The wife who tries to be the head of the house must carry both her load and his. This is too much and it will not make for a happy home.
3. Gen. 3:16 - wifely submission began in the days of Adam and Eve
4. I Pet. 3:5-6 "For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement."
5. I Pet. 3:1 "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;"
6. Eph. 5:22-24
 - a. The wife who rebels against this principle shows disrespect for both God and her husband. The wife's submission to her husband grows out of her submission to Christ - Rm. 6:16-18

- b. A wife in subjection does not surrender her identity as an individual, cease to think for herself, or disobey God in order to obey her husband.
 - c. The subjection of a wife to her husband is not degrading any more than the subjection of the church to Christ is not degrading.
 - d. True greatness is realized in voluntary subjection. - Lk. 22:24-28
 - e. Subjection does not mean inferiority.
7. We should never hear:
- a. "My wife runs things in our family, and I bring home the bacon."
 - b. or "The Wife wears the pants in that family."
8. A truly happy wife will gladly submit herself to her husband.
- D. The wife's attitude toward her husband should be that she will LOVE, HONOR, and OBEY.

II. DUTIES OF THE WIFE

A. HELPMEEET - Gen. 2:18

1. Meet - means suitable - helper
2. Man needed a companion and woman was specially created as a suitable companion and co-worker for man. It is here that woman finds her greatest usefulness, charm and beauty.
3. The word wife comes from a word that means "weaver".
4. "God did not take woman from man's head that she might rule over him, nor yet from man's feet that he might trample upon her. God took woman from man's side that she might be his companion and helper throughout life."

5. It is by man's side that she can realize her greatest usefulness and sweetest joys.
6. "I love you not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you. I love you not only for you have made of yourself, but for what you are making of me. I love you because you have done more than any creed could have done to make me good, and more than any fate could have done to make me happy. You have done it without a touch, without a word, without a sign. You have done it by being yourself. Perhaps this is what companionship means, after all."

B. A good HOUSEKEEPER - Tit. 2:5

1. Paul commanded the older women to train the younger women in being a good keeper at home
2. A woman is especially equipped for home-making.
 - a. She can make a house into a home.
 - b. There is a great deal of difference between a house and a home.
 - c. There is more to a home than housekeeping.
 - d. A wife should make an atmosphere of love, happiness, friendliness, cheerfulness, and co-operation.
3. Being a good wife involves doing housework
 - a. A wife can radiate a spirit that make her husband long for home every time he is away.
 - b. She should major in keeping the home attractive.
 - c. Where there is no wifely interest in the preparation of nourishing meals and the keeping of a clean house trouble will come sooner or later.

4. God has assigned the wife the duty of being a "keeper at home"
 - a. Tit. 2:5
 - b. Sarah and Rebecca were both domestically oriented -Gen. 18:1-8 Gen. 17:14
 - c. Matt. 24:41 speaks of two women grinding at the mill.
 - d. Luke 15:8 speaks of a woman sweeping the house.
 - e. Pro. 31 speaks of the worthy woman:
 - (1) v. 27 - "She looketh well to the ways of her household"
 - (2) v. 15 - she is a cook
 - (3) v. 21 - she is a provider
 - (4) v. 22,24,19 she is a seamstress
 - (5) v. 16 she is a gardener
 - (6) v. 14 she is a shopper
 - (7) v. 26 she is a counselor
 - (8) v. 25 she is a burden bearer.
5. The role of the housewife should not be considered as dull or boring or unfulfilled.
 - a. Wives should take pride in their position and role
 - b. Wives should keep their homes tidy, clean, orderly, appropriately and beautifully decorated.
 - c. "Happy is the housewife who sees the rainbow, not the dishes, in soap suds."
6. A happy wife is a woman who is domestically oriented, and that makes for a happy husband and a happy family.

C. Render "Due Benevolence"

1. I Cor. 7:1-3 V. 3 "Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband." "The affection due her" NKJV
2. The wife should be sensitive to his needs and eager to respond lovingly.
3. In marriage there is a transfer of ownership.
 - a. Before marriage the woman's body was her own possession.
 - b. After marriage the husband possesses power over her body.
 - c. She in turn possesses power over his body.
4. In God's plan he arranged marriage in order to fulfill the basic sexual desire which man and woman have for one another. This is the added language that God gives to those who are married.
5. The wife must render due benevolence to her own husband.

CONCLUSION

1. A good man wants a good wife to wear his name, bear his children, guide his home, and share in the building of a worthwhile life together.
2. Young women - prepare yourselves to be the best wife that you can be:
 - a. Keep yourself pure.
 - b. Develop that kind of personality which is beautiful
 - c. Look for that young man who you can live with as your husband who will love and cherish you all your life. And one that will help you get to heaven. A Christian husband is what you should choose.
 - d. Take your time in choosing that companion.
 - e. Be wise!

3. Married Women -

- a. Enjoy being a wife -
- b. Do your best to make your husband proud of you -
- c. Be obedient to *God* and live such a life that when it is finished you both may be together in that place called heaven.
- d. If your husband is not a Christian remember what Peter said: "Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear." 1 Pet. 3:1-2

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Evening May 2, 2010
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
evanscoc@bellsouth.net
www.evansgachurchofchrist.org