

# IMPACT

**I** **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage:** Ephesians 5:31-33 “For this reason a **man** shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his **wife**, and the **two** shall become **one flesh**.’ This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so **love his own wife** as himself, and let the **wife see that she respects her husband**.”

**Quote:** “Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.” Prov.31:10

**G**od has given mankind an inspired, written blueprint that will bring His blessing upon Christian homes in which the husband and wife embrace their unique roles. Why single out Christian homes? Although unbelieving husbands and wives can benefit from the guidelines of the Bible to some degree, it is only through the enabling of the Holy Spirit that any man or woman can consistently fulfill their God-given responsibilities to their spouse. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines the word “normal” as “conforming to a type, standard, or regular pattern.” For the Christian, that “type, standard or regular pattern” is clearly spelled out in the Bible, and yet it must be personally embraced and exercised consistently with a loving attitude and a desire for God’s glory and the good of one’s mate. We are born with a self-serving bent called “the flesh” that makes life a constant struggle to seek the glory of God and the good of even those for whom we would give our lives!

In Ephesians five, God addresses the wife’s role first. As the help meet to her husband, it is a wife’s duty and solemn privilege to love him, to line up under his leadership as *unto the Lord*, to support him, and to foster a God-honoring home to the best of her ability. The role of submission is not based upon Adam’s sin, but upon the order of creation. Man was created, then woman.... Genesis 1:27-28 “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; *male and female* He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘*Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it....*’” Procreation and stewardship join a third reason that God created woman as found in Genesis 2:18. Companionship. “And the LORD God 192

said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.’” The Hebrew word for helper is “ezer.” In several passages, “ezer” is used for God Himself as the Helper of His people. It was first used by Moses when he named his second son “*Eliezer*” (for he said, ‘The God of my father was my help (“*ezer*”), and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh’).<sup>1</sup> The Psalms use this word several times in describing God. “You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD; He is their help (“*ezer*”) and their shield.”<sup>2</sup> To use the same word that the inspired writers of Scripture employ for Almighty God when they describe the biblical role of a wife magnifies *her dignified, unique and necessary position in the home*. Man, in general, is incomplete without woman, his help meet.

“Submission is not the husband’s to command but for the wife to give willingly and lovingly offer.”<sup>3</sup> A man cannot make his wife follow his leadership unless he abuses her emotionally and/or physically, both of which are grievous sins and a gross violation of his role as a servant-leader in the home. One definition of submission is to line up under the leadership of another *for the good of the whole*. A wife can even follow the leadership of a husband who is not fulfilling his role of sacrificial love when she does so as *unto the Lord* in obedience and worship.<sup>4</sup> Ironically, her doing so brings greater opportunity to glorify God, much like choosing to love others who may be antagonistic towards her.<sup>5</sup> A wife can fulfill her chief responsibility as a help meet to her husband by seeking to have a pleasant disposition,<sup>6</sup> by being grateful for and content with his provision,<sup>7</sup> by encouraging him as her protector/provider, by seeking to meet his needs, and, above all, by striving to be a virtuous woman that honors God in her attitude, actions, speech and appearance.<sup>8</sup> Together with her husband, she must to do all that she can to facilitate godly harmony in the home, and to guard and grow her oneness with the man that God has provided to share a lifetime with her.

## Unique Roles in the Family, the Wife

1 Ex.18:4 2 Psa.115:11 3 J. MacArthur 4 I Pet.3:1 I Cor.7:12-14 5 Matt.5:44; Lk.6:32 6 Prov.21:9, 19; 25:24; 27:15 7 Mt 6:25,34; Php 4:11 -12; 1Ti 6:6,8 8 Prov.12:4; 31:10; I Peter 3:1-6; Col.3; I Cor.7:2-5