Section: Doctrine of Man

**TEACHING NOTES**

**Lesson 26**

**“Roles In Marriage”- Question 30 & 31**

Pastor Joshua Kirstine

Tonight I get to cover two questions in our WOTC. Q30 & 31.

**Q30. What roles did God ordain for men and women within the family?**

**Q31. Is man or woman more important than the other?**

As we look to the roles God has ordained for the husband and wife in marriage we have to recognize that each one of us likely has a perspective and or opinion on this topic based on your life experience.

Many have thoughts on what the roles of the husband and wife are based on your upbringing. Either because you liked the way your parents or grandparents did things and aim to emulate them or because you didn’t like the way they did things and want nothing to do with the way you experienced or saw it done. Some have had their own life experiences with other people, things you have studied in school or seen in movies or read on online that has shaped your view on this topic.

Whatever your view or opinion or experience has been **this is another aspect of Marriage, which is designed by God and given to us by God. Therefore, it is an area we are desperate to understand rightly what he wants these roles to look like and what he has said about the dignity and value of the man and woman**.

Our aim is to know our perfect holy God’s design for his creation and specifically what He intends that to look like in a family. In sin, mankind has done much to usurp God’s perfect design for the roles of men and women, which we are all susceptible to cling to or value based on our own family upbringing, traditions or self-formed worldview. Our desire must be to seek to know and conform to God’s will for these things according to His written word.

Because this is an area that you are likely very practiced in or that you have had a lifetime to build your views on, it is an area that is worth slowing down to consider biblically and to ask the Lord to help us redeem or reform any understandings or positions that we have held that are in opposition to God’s written word and reveled will on the matter.

Like with many other parts of this series, since we are creatures of habit we will not only need to lean in and learn and firm up a biblically understanding but we will also need to be diligent to follow up on the application and needed changes that a biblical understanding brings. It’s one thing to say, I think I get it and it’s another to do what honors God in your daily life, and do it unto the glory of the Lord.

I want to teach on Q 31 first…

**Q31. Is man or woman more important than the other?**

No. **Men and women are equal in dignity and value; both are created in the image of God.**

All of mankind, both men and woman are made in the Image of God. They are Equal in Dignity and Value. To see this in scripture we simply go to the creation account in...

**Genesis 1:26-27** Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Three things we see in this passage and then I will expand:

1. **Man and woman are both created in the image of God and both truly have a human nature.**
2. **They are both commissioned to have dominion over the earth.**
3. **Man and woman are equal in their spiritual adoption and life in Christ**

**A. Man and woman are both created in the image of God and both truly have a human nature.**

Let us make ***man*** in our image, after our likeness. And let ***them*** have dominion…

See with me the plurality of the Godhead (Father, Son & HS) let “US” make man in “OUR” image.

Also see with me the Plurality of mankind. References to “man” here mean=mankind, humans, Male and Female. This is further clarified in the use of the word “them”. And let “THEM” have dominion, male and female he created “THEM”.

So the key here, is that we see that the same way that each member of the holy trinity is equally God and not one is higher or more important than the other, Man and woman are both made in God’s image after God’s likeness and therefore are equal in dignity and value, one not more important than the other, one not of higher value or worth then the other.

Just as we (the created) look to each member of the Trinity as equally and fully God, not one out ranking or holding more importance than the other, we must look equally to man and woman as mankind.

It is only in mankind’s sin that people, nations or cultures, have held the view that the woman or the man are more important or of higher value or dignity. We see this in some cultures where they would kill of the baby girls because they saw them as an inferior part of the human race. Or in a modern culture you are seeing an elevation of women as being of greater importance and or worth them man. This is simply and purely sin. Your Son and your daughter are both your kids, one doesn’t out do the other in value or human dignity simply because they are male or female. To think this way is to think unbiblically.

Male and female are each created in the image of God. There is no inequality in God, so there is no inequality in man (mankind- male and female).

**B. They are both commissioned to have dominion over the earth.**

Both man and woman are given dominion over the creation. The man doesn’t have greater dominion than the woman. Mankind as a whole is given the position of superior or highest beings in creation.

One not out ranking the other in importance and or in dominion over the rest of creation.

**C. Man and woman are equal in their spiritual adoption and life in Christ**

**-God makes no gender distinction on who He will save and redeem. Galatians 3:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

As Christians, our ultimate value and our ultimate worth come from God, and not simply because He made us male or female, but because He has given us His Son to save all of us who belong to Him, male and female. There is no higher value you could place on a person. Christ didn’t come to save any animals, He didn’t even come to save angels. He came to save His people, men and women created in the image of God.

**1 Peter 3:7** Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Husbands are called by Peter to “show honor” to their wives and live with them in an understanding way for while they are different in roles (as we will see in a moment) they are equally “heirs… of the grace of life”

Church: There is a respect and dignity and honor that we show men and woman equally because of the fact that God made them equal in creation and in Christ.

This is to govern our thoughts, our speaking to each other and about each other and how we engage and treat one another. It is sinful speaking/joking or acting or thinking about a man or a woman as a “lesser person” simply because they are male or female.

This can quickly turn into a sinful partiality if we find ourselves holding one higher than the other. We must fight whatever sin that causes us to think of ourselves or others as less important or less valuable.

Every person is made in the image of God, every person is human and therefore equally deserving of human rights and the right to life as per the economy that God has set forth in His word. Each of us are co-heirs in God’s eternal family and while we have different roles and even strengths or duties to fulfill in God’s economy for mankind, we need to not allow other distinctions create a sinful judgment on the equal worth of every human being, male and female.

With this understanding before us let’s now turn to Question 30 and see what God designed for men and woman when it comes to the roles he ordained for us to live out and why this is truly good news.

**Q30. What roles did God ordain for men and women within the family?**

God has ordained the role of the husband to lovingly lead his wife and family. God has ordained the role of the wife to joyfully submit to her husband’s leadership as his helper.

One of the main passages we see this in **Ephesians 5:22-33** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

**What we see in scripture is that God designed the oneness of marriage a way in which two complement each other instead of trying to compete for the same roles.**

**Like a good team or fighter pilot duo.** If you are both fighting to steer the plane, you will crash and burn and if the co-pilot fails to watch for bogies from behind and support the pilot you will be shot down.

**To know your role and how you compliment the other is essential to marital health and success, and most importantly, glorify God by living out His prescribed will. To not know or live out your roles is to surely struggle along the way and dishonor God and your spouse.**

In this passage we see that…

<>Husbands are compared to Christ; <>wives are compared to the church.

<>Husbands are compared to the head; <>wives are compared to the body.

<> Husbands are commanded to love and lead as Christ loved and led;

<>wives are commanded to submit and support as the church is to submit and support the work and headship of Christ.

The roles of husband and wife are rooted in the distinctive roles of Christ and his church. Because marriage is the testimony of Christ and His bride, the church and for the Glory of God. We tell an honest testimony of Christ and the Church when the husband and wife fulfill the roles given to them by God instead of living out the roles as they see it should be or whatever seems to work best.

**So, let’s finally, dig into the Roles God gives the Husband and Wife.**

**First let’s look to the Husband’s ROLE:**

**Our catechism answer says:** God has ordained the role of the husband to lovingly lead his wife and family.

**Leadership is the role of the husband. The theological term we use that we derive from scripture is “headship”.**

**Husbands are designed to be the head. Let’s give headship a working definition:**

1. ***Headship*** is the divine calling of a husband to take primary responsibility for
	* + 1. Christ-like, servant (or sacrificial) leadership, protection, and provision in the home.

Let’s look at the kind of Leadership husbands are to have for our wife and kids.

**Ephesians 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

**First thing... notice who took the initiative. Who stepped up and lead?**

Jesus initiated the church’s saving. the church did not go to Christ. **Jesus planned it and took the initiative**, but also, he died to give an example to us…. an example of how to lead! **This is servant leadership.**

A Christian leader is someone who influences others to honor God’s word—to accomplish what God has set forth. The Good Shepherd (Jesus) “leads in paths of righteousness.” Likewise, those who lead others should do so with their focus on the Lord and His purposes!

**Husbands, you are called to lead in such a way that truly lifts up and benefits of those you lead, according to God’s word. Are you leading with only you in mind, or with the whole family in mind?**

This is why Christ in your life and home is essential because you will not lead as a servant without Him changing your dead selfish heart into a living selfless heart for others.

Let me say it again:

**You will not lead in a Christ like servant way if you do not truly and deeply have Christ as your Lord and model.**

Your sin is to be selfish. So, I pray as much as you long to lovingly and rightly lead your wife and kids is as much as you are desperate for Jesus to be leading your life.

It is in selfish, prideful, lazy leadership that men have hurt their families. If those cases, there has been a missing SERVANT LEADERSHIP.

**So, How do we lead well?**

**Ephesians 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

**First, notice Jesus is willing to serve and love her unto the greatest cost—to the end. To death.**

**Is this not the most beautiful form of protection?**

Putting your life on the line to the point of death is a beautiful sign of oneness, of Sacrificial living

 **Guys: it doesn’t just mean … “you are willing to take a bullet, if it comes to that.”**

**It means you die for those you lead in your work, your chores around the house, Time with your kids, it means you keep going after you don’t have any left.**

**You love those you lead by giving yourself up for the good of the whole family!**

**<>Take notice at how different this looks than our often misconstrued interpretation of Leadership.**

**Your leadership doesn’t mean you sit on the coach and your wife massages your feet and feeds you grapes as you ignore your responsibilities and caring for others.**

In sin, some people have read passages about husbands leading and wives submitting to say:

**a woman is to be a mere servant, seen as having less value or dignity. And a man can sit back and bark orders, care for no one but himself, and simply seek to be served.**

**Guys: If you want to dominate something, get a pet Rat or a Dog, that is not how you treat a spouse!**

So, it’s *not* that, let’s consider what it IS: Christ was concerned for the flourishing and holiness of the church. Paul reminds us in Eph. 5:26–27 that Jesus’s love and sacrifice for his bride were in order “that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” The love of Jesus in giving himself was not merely that we might be forgiven but that we would be holy. Jesus leads His bride into her being holy. The purpose of *your* leadership, husbands and fathers, has this lofty goal in mind as well. Are you lifting up God’s word for the good of your family? That’s the most important way you lead. And in that, in you knowing God’s word means you grow in wisdom too—you grow in how you should lead in all the various things this life includes. The Bible doesn’t directly tell you what job to take, or what house to buy for your family, but it does include much instruction and wisdom to equip you to lead in those decisions in a way that honors God and blesses those under your leadership. So, for example, a man of the word would know not to buy a home twice as expensive than the family can afford because it means an unhealthy budget, or long-term debt problems, or requiring the wife to not be able to fulfill what God calls her to around the home because she has work a job more hours than she should.

Men you lead by doing what’s best for the whole family, according to God’s word.

**So, we’ve said, that Headship is the divine calling of a husband to take primary responsibility for Christ-like, sacrificial leadership, protection, and provision in the home.**

**Now, it is essential to see that Protection & Provision both have a physical *and* a spiritual meaning.**

Practically, a husband’s leadership may be summed up in these four ways:

1) **spiritual protection** (like prayer and warnings and keeping certain influences out of the home).

2) **physical protection** (as from intruders or natural disasters or disease), and

3) **spiritual provision** (like the word of God and spiritual guidance, instruction, and encouragement),

4) **physical provision** (like food and shelter),

**1-Leadership in Spiritual Protection**

The spiritual dangers that plague the family today are innumerable and subtle.

We need valiant shepherds of the flock God has entrusted to our care

Not with spears and shields, but with biblical discernment and courage.

**First, Men, pray for your family everyday!** Fight for them in prayer against the devil and the world and the flesh. Don’t grow weary. God hears prayer for our wives and children.

**Leadership means we must take the lead in reconciliation.**

I don’t mean that wives should never say they are sorry, nor that there are not times where their conviction of sin doesn’t bring them to it first. But do you have the Christ-like tendency to take initiative when reconciliation is needed? Be a leader in reconciliation.

**2-Leadership in Physical Protection**

 If there is a sound downstairs during the night and it might be a burglar, you don’t say to her:

**It’s your turn!** **I mean that even if your wife has a black belt in karate. After you’ve tried, she may finish off the burglar with one good kick to the solar plexus. But you better be unconscious on the floor if she is going down there first, or you’re not a man.**

**It’s Man code!** God Almighty writes it on your soul, brother.

 Big or little, strong or weak, night or day, you go up against the enemy first.

Woe to the husband—and woe to the nation—that sends their women to fight the physical battles of men.

**Next, What about provision?** Look at… verse 28-29

**Ephesians 5: 28-29** “In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church.”

**The words “nourish and cherish” are significant here.**

**3- Leadership in Spiritual Provision**

To provide spiritual food for the family, **you must know spiritual food.**

So **are you in the word of God?** If you are feeding your soul with the word of God, you will be drawn to feed your wife and your children.

So, **are you in community with other men who are helping you grow spiritually**, praying for you, watching your back, challenging you when you are in flirting with sin, Confronting you when you are in sin.

So, **Are you the one to initiate the priority for Sunday worship?**

**Are you the one prioritizing your family’s finances and resources for God’s Glory first?**

**Or are you so busy rebuilding the old hot rod that you leave these kind of matters to your wife?**

**4- Leadership in Physical Provision**

 **1 Timothy 5:8**But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

The husband bears the *primary* responsibility to put bread on the table.

Again the word *primary* is important. Now understand! **Both husbands and wives always work.**

**This Goes back to God’s assignments to Man and Woman since Genesis.**

But their normal spheres of work are:

 **Man: leadership, breadwinner, Wife: helper, domestic manager/nurturer.**

This has never meant that there are not seasons in life when a wife cannot work outside the home or that the husband cannot share the domestic burdens.

But it does mean that a man compromises his own soul and sends the wrong message to his wife and children when he does not position himself as the one who lays down his life to put bread on the table.

**Men, The life of the family hangs on your “God empowered” protection and provision.**

Like a Lion who protects his family at all cost and provides for them with hark work.

**I think it is easier to see the Soldier part of Leadership…. The Lionhearted leader!**

**But, I think it can be harder to see Lamblike part of true leadership.**

**Especially, because it is so counter-culture.**

**The Sacrifice of the Lamb**

The simplest way to see the Servant Leadership of Christ in his everyday workings is to remember that Jesus himself bound himself with a towel and got down on the floor and washed this disciples’ feet

**(the bridegroom, serving the bride) ---Describe it!**

**Realize this! Not for one minute did any of the disciples in that room doubt who the leader was in that moment. 🡪**Jesus takes our selfish sin filled view of manhood and leadership and flips it on it’s head!

**Servant hood does not nullify leadership; it defines it.**

**Jesus does not cease to be the Lion of Judah when he becomes**

**the lamb-like servant of the church.**

If we are going to lead our wives by serving them, we must abandon the notion that their role is to serve us like a slave in bondage. Their role is to be our loving helper in submission to our God-given authority as the head of the home. Their serving us is ultimately meant by God to be a joyful expression of their love and submission to Him.

A word of encouragement for the Husbands:

 “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” **(Isaiah 41:10).**

**Be encouraged. Leadership is hard.** But you’re a man. You’re a man by God’s design.

If your father never taught you how to lead in a Christ like way, **your heavenly Father will.** Go to him. Grow in HIM!

**A Caution to Wives**

If your husband is too passive and does not take leadership on let me encourage you to:

A. pray earnestly for him that God would awaken his true manhood.

B. Ask him for a time when the two of you alone, when you are neither tired nor angry, can talk about your heart’s desires. When you express your longings, do it without sounding any ultimatums, and with a sense of hope grounded in God, not man. Express appreciation and honor for any ways that he is leading.

C. Point him to Jesus by letting the Gospel move through you in word and deed.

I love John Pipers words when he says, “When a man joyfully bears the primary God-given responsibility for Christ-like, servant leadership and provision and protection in the home—for the spiritual well being of the family, for the discipline and education of the children, for the stewardship of money, for holding of a steady job, for the healing of hurts and conflict—I have never met a wife who is sorry she married such a man. Because when God designs a thing (like marriage), he designs it for his glory & our good.”

**WIVES’ ROLE:**

**Our Catechism answer to Q30 says:** God has ordained the role of the wife to joyfully submit to her husband’s leadership as his helper.

**Ephesians 5:22**Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

the word calls you to a role of submission.

**Wives’ are designed to be the helper. Let’s give submission a working definition:**

1. ***Submission*** is the divine calling of a wife to honor and affirm her husband’s leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts.

**Submission is the disposition to follow a husband’s God-given authority and an inclination to yield to his leadership.**

It is an attitude whereby a wife says to her husband, **“I delight for you to take the initiative in our family. I am glad when you take responsibility for things and lead with love. I don’t flourish in the relationship when you are passive and I have to make sure the family works.”**

**The Problem is in today’s culture, feminism would argue that any form of submissiveness is a compromise of one’s self worth. The belief is if I submit to others I will be taken advantage of and I will be of lesser value.**

Ladies: **Never allow the world to tell you submission is weak or second-class.**

Remember you are modeling the submission the church which includes all of us are to have to Jesus. Which is not weak or second class.

**Proverbs 31:10 describes a woman who’s value is greater than Jewels …**She is far more precious than jewels.

**A woman is a treasure. Equal to a Man in value and dignity and at the same time designed and called by GOD to be joyfully submissive.**

No one modeled faithful submission better than the King of the universe. Jesus Christ who, in His human nature, submitted himself to the will of God the Father. The pinnacle of this is Christ’s death on a cross to show the ultimate form of other-centered love and save us from our sin for God’s glory and our good.

Ladies, I pray this is your heart also in your marriage.

**You did not draw the short stick by being a female.**

The role of headship is hard for us men too. We are called to serve you to death.

See your role is the perfect fit for you and your husband to success in your oneness.

**It is pride and sin that causes a man to lead poorly and, likewise, it is pride and sin for a woman to submit poorly.**

**To dig deeper into the role of the godly wife let’s return to and spend some time in Proverbs 31... look with me at...**

**Proverbs 31:11-12** The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.

 She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

**Why does the heart of a husband trust in a godly woman?**

**Because she is hard working or beautiful or fun to be with?**

No. It is because she is desperate for and dependent on God in all that she does. Look at

**1 Peter 3: 5** “For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands.” A biblical wife is desperate for and dependent on God in all that she does—Her hope is IN GOD. The husband trusts his wife because she is fixed to the vine, who is Christ. She is not governed by her own ambition or standard but by the Lord. A husband will have no lack of gain because his wife’s life will be fruitful in the Lord and therefore a great blessing to do him good and not harm all the days of her life. She is faithful to help him and not harm him or work against him. She loves her role given to her by the Lord and leans on Him alone to do it well.

A godly woman works hard in whatever her task is. She is not slothful or lazy but rises to steward well the day that the Lord has entrusted to her.

**Proverbs 31:13-16** She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.

 She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar.

 She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens.

 She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

**Proverbs 31:27** She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

A godly woman works hard in whatever her task is. She is not slothful or lazy but rises to steward well the day that the Lord has entrusted to her. The descriptions given in verses 13-16 point to the managing of the household and the basic gathering of the things needed for the family. Her aim is to be sure her family is clothed and fed well. So, she rises to tend to her household and the things needed for her family to thrive and be cared for.

I have heard many say over the years that a stay-at-home wife or mother doesn’t have a job or work.

They have never considered carefully the godly women I know who rise early and work hard to care for their family and household and the women they get to invest into and disciple along the way.

No matter what is on the plate of daily tasks and responsibilities, the managing and tending to the family and household is a God-given priority for a godly woman. This doesn’t mean the wife can’t help with the bread winning of the family, but it does mean that tending to her husband and the home and nurturing and raising of the children **is her first priority**. Church, we need to be so careful that a fleshly desire for more stuff or more vacations or a nicer house doesn’t mean the wife has to work and in doing so neglect her God given priorities. While a wife having a job or pursuing a career is not sinful in and of itself, *it is if* it means she is putting off her God given priorities of first helping her husband and tending to the children and the home so that the husband can be the primary bread winner and leader God has called him to be.

That said, let me be clear to say that some don’t have a choice. Short term/temporary unemployment of the husband, Single mom, etc. But may we not let a modern cultural norms give us a worldview that prevents us from living out our God given priorities first and foremost. And may we not put away the training up of our daughters to do these things that God has prescribed in his word for wives and mothers to do first and to do them well and unto the glory of the Lord.

**Proverbs 31:17-18** She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong.

 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.

A godly woman lives and thrives in the strength of the Lord. She is not weak but is strong in Christ. This does not mean she is strong-willed and not meek. For God tells us through the Apostle Peter, in 1 Peter 3:4, that women should "let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious." So, being strong in the Lord means she is focused on the things that the Lord has put before her with a God-honoring drive and not a passivity.

She knows what God has entrusted to her is profitable, and she finishes her day well. Meaning, she walks in the strength of her Lord from start to finish. This is a blessing to her husband and family, because she doesn’t tap out and quit part way. She is able to do this because of who Christ is in her life and because she is not doing it in her own strength, which is often fleeting and self-serving.

**Proverbs 31:20** She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.

A godly woman is selfless in her love and therefore generous and sacrificial in her love for others. When a woman’s heart is captivated in Christ, what was formerly to be gained in selfish pursuits falls away because her heart is satisfied in Jesus. Therefore, she is able to go above and beyond and open her hand to serve those in need in her home and community. This is the gospel at work through the redeemed for the good of those God puts in our path.

**Proverbs 31:23** Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.

The point about her husband being known among the leaders of the land is less about ego and fame and more about the fact that because she is rightly stewarding the household and the family, the husband is able to invest himself in the things the Lord has called him to among other men. **This is similar to the saying, “Behind every good man is a good woman.” The blessing of a godly wife frees her husband to thrive in doing what God has entrusted to him.**

**Proverbs 31:25** Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.

A godly woman walks confidently not in herself, but in her God. She laughs at the time to come, because she knows and trusts the One who ultimately controls it. She trusts in the sovereignty of God and rests in Him. And all my sisters in Christ said, AMEN..

**Proverbs 31:26** She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

A godly woman is a disciple-maker and gladly invests her time into mentoring and teaching others the good things of the Lord.

**Proverbs 31:28-30** Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

 “Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.”

 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

While she is beautiful on the outside through and through, it is truly a right and growing fear of and devotion to the Lord that is her greatest and most blessed attribute.

No matter where one is on this journey, may we recognize that the cause of a godly woman’s life and devotion is not herself but is Christ alone. He is the only one who empowers good stewardship and devoted hard work unto His glory. He is the only one who changes the heart to fear the Lord and love others sacrificially. He is the only one who changes us from the inside out. No matter where you are, ladies, or no matter where your wife or daughter is, men, may we point the women in our lives back to the gospel and all that Christ is to us. May He change us from the inside out to be good stewards of the life He has entrusted us, for His glory and others’ good.

Women: Just like the men can’t truly or faithfully lead sacrificially without Jesus at the helm of their heart and life.. **You will not be joyfully or faithfully submissive without Jesus.**

**Christ alone is the power to change... to provide the character change needed and to last a lifetime.**

The Holiness that comes out of a Joyfully submissive woman is the hand of Christ at work in them.

Tonight, I want to clarify a few things regarding submission, though.

**Understand that submission should never follow a husband into sin.**

Now there will be times in a Christian marriage when the most submissive wife, with good reason, will hesitate at a husband’s decision. It may look unwise to her.

**Suppose a wife is biblically convicted her husband is about to lead** in a way that looks foolish or sinful to her. At that moment, she could express her submission like this:

 “HUSBAND, I know you’ve thought a lot about this, and I love it when you take the initiative to plan for us and take the responsibility like this, but I really don’t have peace about this decision and I think we need to talk about it some more. Could we?”

This is good and right when the word of God may not be what the husband is leading from. Slow down, have patience, talk in love, and when needed, bring in other godly people to help bring biblical counsel and perspective. Husbands, be thankful when your wife helps in this way.

Now, as we close, Let meremind us again that marriage is not mainly about staying in love.

**It’s about covenant keeping.**

And the main reason it is about covenant keeping is that God designed the relationship between a husband and his wife to represent the relationship between Christ and the church.

**This is the deepest meaning of marriage.**

And that is why ultimately the roles of headship and submission are so important.

**If our marriages are going to tell the truth about Christ and his church, we cannot be indifferent to the meaning of headship and submission. We must live it!**

Never forget this: **that God’s purpose for the church—and for the Christian wife who represents the church in her marriage— His purpose is her everlasting holy joy.**

**Christ died so that we would be holy, we would have Joy, and HE would have the Glory.**

Now, **What does this look like when Christ is in us and binding us in our marriage?**

**Ephesians 5:18b-21** be filled with the Spirit, **19**addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **20**giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21**submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

🡪Husbands and wives who are filled with the Holy Spirit sacrificially love and serve one another.

They humble themselves and get down low to lift the other up.

They find ways to outdo each other in showing love and honor. And they aim to surrender their immediate preferences for comfort to the needs of the other.