



Is God in the House? *Women that Love*

by Thomas K. Burk

Ephesians 5:21-33

- (21) Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.
- (22) Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.
- (23) For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.
- (24) Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.
- (25) Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;
- (26) That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
- (27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.
- (28) So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.
- (29) For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:
- (30) For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.
- (31) For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.
- (32) This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.
- (33) Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

The Role of Women in the Home and the Church

- There are 3 partners in a marriage—the husband—the wife –God. The Bible says that a three stranded cord is not easily broken.
- First lesson was “*Completeness at Home*,” and dealt with God’s expectations in the Christian Home

- Second lesson was “*Men that Love,*” and talked specifically about a man’s responsibility in the Christian home.
- Tonight is entitled “*Women that Love.*” Tonight we focus on a woman’s responsibility in the Christian home.

Genesis 1:26, 27 “Them”

Genesis 1:26-27

(26) And 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

(27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

- Women have ontological equality with men
- She, like the man, is to be a reflection of God

Galatians 3:27-29

(27) For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

(28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

(29) And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

- The theological equality of men and women in Jesus
- Through Jesus we are spiritually equal and have equal access to God’s presence and to our particular ministries.

In the order of creation, the woman was the finality of the physical creation.

- That may mean that woman is the apex, or the greatest?!
- According to the some natural issues, you could say that the woman is at minimum the equal to man and possibly even his superior. Why? Because statistically she can handle certain situations men cannot and information shows that she lives longer than men.
- Yet, God does not promote the man over the woman or the woman over the man, but creates them so they are companions with each other and a complement to each other.

Question asked to John Wayne:

Q: “Do you believe women should be equal to men?”

JW: “Yes, I do! It’s about time they were made equal; they’ve been superior for too long!”

Genesis 2:18 “Help Meet” or “A helper suitable for Him”

Genesis 2:18

(18) And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a **help meet** for him.

- **Help Meet**” is “**Azar Knegdno.**”
- **This is one who’s the exact counterpart of, or opposite of the other.**
- Has the connotation of spiritual and physical equality and adequacy

- Not just to *HELP* do the dishes, laundry, or cooking, but more so to be the man's very personhood.
- The woman is equal to and adequate for man in every aspect!
- I have read where some claim the root word from which comes the word *rib* is also the root for the word *cell*. Simply put, it could be said that God divided a cell in Adam from which He created Eve.
- Also, the word 'bone' is often mentioned in various contexts in the Old Testament. The Hebrew word for 'bone' is "ètsem." *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* #6106 states that bones is "essence, substance."
- The Old Testament gives numerous examples of bones being used in analogies to convey the essence of a man (his soul) in both negative and positive ways.
- The word 'bone' is first mentioned in the scriptures when Eve was created from Adam's rib.

Genesis 2:21-24

(21) And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and **he took one of his ribs**, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

(22) And **the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman**, and brought her unto the man.

(23) And Adam said, **This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh**: she shall be called **Woman, because she was taken out of Man**.

(24) Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

- In this context, Adam's *rib bone* confirms that the woman was **made from the same substance and essence** as the man. Adam said: "**This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.**" (**Genesis 23:23**)
- Now the woman was taken out of the man to show that the male and female principle existed in God's creation, Adam. Adam is a type of Christ. Eve is a type of the Church.
- Notice it says that the **woman came from the man**. He is called the "**First Adam**," and Eve is called the "**Mother of all Living**."

Genesis 3:20

(20) And Adam called his wife's name **Eve; because she was the mother of all living**.

- *Strong's Concordance: Eve H2332* *lifegiver; Chavvah* (or Eve), the first woman
- Later we see that from the last Adam—Jesus—came forth another woman, the bride of Christ, the Church, the *Chavvah* or *Eve* of all.

Galatians 4:26-28

(26) But **Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all**.

(27) For it is written, **Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not**; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not; **for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath a husband**.
[From Isaiah 54:1]

(28) **Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise**. [My three part study entitled "*Locating the Borders of a Promise*" explains this passage in detail]

Where did the Church come from? It began with Adam and Eve, but found its purpose and identity pouring forth from the bleeding side of Jesus Christ.

John 19:34

(34) But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

Jesus is the husband, the Church is His wife, and through the rebirth we are said to now be bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh.

Ephesians 5:28-32

(28) So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

(29) For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

(30) For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

(31) For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

(32) This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

“Help Meet” – “Azar” also means *power or strength*

- The woman could also be seen as a power equal to man
- So the Azar Knegdno is like a balancing of the scale.
- The woman is the equal side that balances the man.

So to contrast how the Bible views women to how historical pagan societies viewed women, is quite different.

- The Bible never viewed women as property, like cows or slaves, but held them up in honor and respect.
- Two independent, yet equal partners that come together in the union of marriage.
- Different qualities and different functions, yet women have power that is equal to a man's.
- There are basic differences in the way a man and woman sees the world, which is why men don't always understand women.

Example:

Trip: Men are destination-oriented and women are journey-oriented. Men want to get there and women enjoy the trip. When stagecoaches, steamships, trains, and airplanes first arrived in society, those forming the longest line to buy tickets were the women. Men needed to get there, but women wanted to experience the travel.

Shopping: As a rule, men shop to *buy*, but women shop to *look*. I go into a store, first because I have to, and second to pick up what I am there for. This is why my favorite part of any mall is the exit doors! Not my wife; she circles the racks as if they are wagons in an old western movie, and then she moves in for the kill. She doesn't do this with only a few racks. No, she has to circle them all, which sometimes includes returning later to circle some of them at least one more time. Whew! This is why I HATE to go to a mall!

Azar has a giving quality which typifies the woman

- The woman is the giver in the family.
- The essence of the feminine is to give life even to the man.

1 Corinthians 11:11-12

(11) Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. [**Spiritually** there is no superiority, only equality]

(12) For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God. [**Physically** there is no superiority, only equality]

One—Unity of Opposites—Not Sameness

- True love embraces individuality; it doesn't stifle it.
- Mature love emphasizes his and her personhood.
- We merge one into the other, but we don't become submerged one into the other.
- The woman is a person, and she is not to find her whole identity and personality in the man.
- She should be allowed to have her own individuality, uniqueness, talents, and callings.

Why did this change? The Curse on the Woman Due to the Fall.

Genesis 3:16

(16) Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and **thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.**

- Her desire will be to her husband. He will rule over her. This isn't a pattern; it's a curse
- Children should bring joy; yet they bring pain in childbirth.
- **Man** is more interested in ruling, or dominating his kingdom and wife.
Her desire—her mutuality was broken at the fall, and she desires the relationship as it originally was.
- Women have a strong compulsion to preserve relationships.
 - Women who are abused yet they hold on.
- From the fall they now look for meaning in their relationship.

“Submit”

Ephesians 5:22

(22) Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

- The idea here is not subservience, but voluntary service given to one's mate.
- Wives humbly adapt yourself to the needs of your mate.
- “Wives, love your husbands with agape love.” This is a self-sacrificing love that costs you something.
- **God is the male. Why?** Because the essence of the masculine is to imitate, order, and create. Such an issue can become corrupted in man through a lust for power or position.
- **Church is feminine. Why?** Because the Church responds to God's grace with faithfulness. How is this corrupted? Through faithlessness and self-centered desires overtaking ones commitment and duty to the covenantal agreement.

- **In women's fallenness**, there is the impression that women are to find their identity, purpose, and spiritual meaning of life in their husband. This, again, is the curse on women.
- But Jesus took our curses upon Him. This means that women, who are Born Again, should not find their identity in their earthly husbands, but rather in their heavenly husband—Jesus.

You are created equal and are spiritually equal to men.

- Day of Pentecost, the Spirit fell equally on men and women. ([Acts 2](#) and [Joel 2:28](#))
- You will find your identity, purpose and spiritual meaning in your relationship to Jesus. This will then lead you, lovingly to submission to your husband.

Matthew 22:37-40

(37) Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

(38) This is the first and great commandment.

(39) And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

(40) On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

- **A woman's highest calling is not to be a wife or a mother, but instead to be a child of Jesus Christ.**

Luke 14:26

(26) If any man **come to me**, and **hate not** his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be **my disciple**.

Give Jesus precedence in your life!

- Only when you come into a **right relationship with God** can you come into a right relationship with yourself and others.

HOW TO LOVE THE UNLOVABLE

Fortune cookie: "A girlfriend is a bottle of wine; a wife is a wine bottle."

One of the hardest things to realize is that you aren't called to change your husband, your boyfriend, your kids, your family, or your friends, but that your focus is to change yourself.

- **Recovering Alcoholics:** One of the hardest parts is to stay dry is not the alcohol calling your name, but that the wives can't get out of the habit of complaining to their husband, even after he quit drinking.

Matthew 7:1-5

(1) Judge not, that ye be not judged.

(2) For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

(3) And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

(4) Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

(5) Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

If you will allow Jesus to change you, then that change will be seen and will help to influence the husband to believe for his own transformation.

1 Peter 3:1-6

- (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;
- (2) While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.
- (3) Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;
- (4) But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.
- (5) 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:
- (6) 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.

1 Peter 3:1-6 AMP

- (1) IN LIKE manner, you married women, be submissive to your own husbands [subordinate yourselves as being secondary to and dependent on them, and adapt yourselves to them], so that even if any do not obey the Word [of God], they may be won over not by discussion but by the [godly] lives of their wives,
- (2) When they observe the pure and modest way in which you conduct yourselves, together with your reverence [for your husband; you are to feel for him all that reverence includes: to respect, defer to, revere him--to honor, esteem, appreciate, prize, and, in the human sense, to adore him, that is, to admire, praise, be devoted to, deeply love, and enjoy your husband].
- (3) Let not yours be the [merely] external adorning with [elaborate] interweaving and knotting of the hair, the wearing of jewelry, or changes of clothes;
- (4) But let it be the inward adorning and beauty of the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible and unfading charm of a gentle and peaceful spirit, which [is not anxious or wrought up, but] is very precious in the sight of God.
- (5) For it was thus that the pious women of old who hoped in God were [accustomed] to beautify themselves and were submissive to their husbands [adapting themselves to them as themselves secondary and dependent upon them].
- (6) It was thus that Sarah obeyed Abraham [following his guidance and acknowledging his headship over her by] calling him lord (master, leader, authority). And you are now her true daughters if you do right and let nothing terrify you [not giving way to hysterical fears or letting anxieties unnerve you].

1 Peter 3:1-6 GNB

- (1) In the same way you wives must submit yourselves to your husbands, so that if any of them do not believe God's word, your conduct will win them over to believe. It will not be necessary for you to say a word,
- (2) because they will see how pure and reverent your conduct is.

- (3) You should not use outward aids to make yourselves beautiful, such as the way you fix your hair, or the jewelry you put on, or the dresses you wear.
- (4) Instead, your beauty should consist of your true inner self, the ageless beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of the greatest value in God's sight.
- (5) For the devout women of the past who placed their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful by submitting themselves to their husbands.
- (6) Sarah was like that; she obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are now her daughters if you do good and are not afraid of anything.
- Save her husband by her conduct. . .

SET YOUR PRIORITIES RIGHT

- Do more with less.
- Put your husband and children first.
- Let God be the bond that glues you and your husband together in the holy union of marriage.

Romans 8:31

(31) What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Genesis 1:1-5

- (1) In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
- (2) And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
- (3) And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
- (4) And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.
- (5) And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.
- If God made it, He can fix it!!
- If you feel that all in your house is darkness, allow Jesus to speak forth His glorious light into it.
- How do you do this? **Pray for your Home, your marriage, your children, your family, your life's issues.**

1 Timothy 1:18-20

- (18) This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;
- (19) Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:
- (20) Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

1 Timothy 2:1-10

- (1) I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;
- (2) For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
- (3) For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior;

- (4) Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.
- (5) For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;
- (6) Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.
- (7) Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.
- (8) I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.
- (9) In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.
- (10) But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

- Women are called to be adorned with good works, modest apparel, shamefacedness (bashful), and sobriety (seriousness).
- It is through these quiet and chaste qualities that women will have their greatest influence on the world. This is how God said the feminine would find their purpose toward:
 - Their husband (See 1 Corinthians 11)
 - Their children (Titus 2 and 1 Timothy 5)
 - Their home (Titus 2)
 - Toward others (Proverbs 31, 1 Timothy 5)

WOMEN WITHOUT HUSBANDS

1 Corinthians 7:25-35

- (25) Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.
- (26) I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be.
- (27) Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.
- (28) But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.
- (29) But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;
- (30) And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;
- (31) And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.
- (32) But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:
- (33) But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.
- (34) There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.
- (35) And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.

- If God has set you apart for himself alone, it is to serve Him in an exceptional manner.
- It is not so that you can pursue self-serving pleasures.
- This same principal is found in the Bible's dealings with widows

1 Timothy 5:3-7

- (3) Honor widows that are widows indeed.
- (4) But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to show piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.
- (5) Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.
- (6) But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.
- (7) And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless.

- Since women are called to adorn themselves with good works, how much more should those women who have been called to God do so in a special and exclusive manner?

Just because you don't have a husband now doesn't mean that God may not have a man designated as your "**Azar Knegdno.**"

- As Paul says having a desire to marry is not a sin.
- Paul's statement against marriage came due to the distress that the early Christian church was facing.
- The violent persecution that was coming against them from both the Jews and the Romans is what compelled Paul to suggest those who could to stay single.
- But from the beginning it was God who said it was not good for man to be alone.
- Because so, we must be open to the reality that God is the ultimate matchmaker, and because so, may be positioning the single person to find their mate at any given time in their life.

PREPARE FOR A HUSBAND

Titus 2:1-5

- (1) But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:
- (2) That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.
- (3) The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;
- (4) That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,
- (5) To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

- Seek out the fellowship and instruction of older women who can model and teach the specifically feminine elements of sound doctrine enumerated in Titus 2.
- Seek out the younger ladies as well with all the children who can give you the practical experience of loving children.
- Prepare for a husband by adorning yourself with feminine virtue.

- Make yourself precious in the sight of God and you will attract to yourself the type of husband who thinks like your God. What is precious in the sight of God? (See 1 Peter 3:1-6)

WOMEN AND CHILDREN

This is a sensitive area. The word of God does define femininity through childbearing and through serving your husband's interest, but mores it focuses on true feminine identity coming through you managing the character of your home, and in serving others (particularly the women) around you.

- Not having the responsibility of raising children does not mean that a woman is without a God-given task.
- God allowing a woman to be in such a lifestyle allows them the opportunity to more vigorously serve the Lord.

Isaiah 54:1

(1) Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD.

John Wesley's Explanatory Notes on the Whole Bible

Isa 54:1 - Sing - The prophet having largely discoursed of the sufferings of Christ, and of the blessed fruits thereof, and here foreseeing that glorious state of the church, he breaks forth into this song of triumph. And as the foregoing chapter literally speaks of Christ, so doth this of the church of Christ. This church, consisting at first of the Jews, and afterwards of the Gentiles, had been barren, 'till the coming of Christ. The desolate - The church of the Gentiles, which in the times of the Old Testament was desolate, does now bring forth to God a more numerous posterity than that of the Jews

- Seek out such opportunities to bless others, and excel in these with your feminine virtues.

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

(32) But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:

(33) But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.

(34) There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

(35) And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.

WOMEN FELLOWSHIPPING WOMEN

Hebrews 10:24

(24) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Hebrews 10:24 AMP

(24) And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities,

- Women are instructed to gather together to talk about feminine issues.
- This should be done whether you have children or a husband or not.
- Such gatherings are great opportunities for women to serve the other women.
- This is how the Body of Christ learns from each other, grows from each other, and can better serve each other.

Next Lesson: Is God in the House? Women that Love

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