

# Wives, Reverence Your Husbands

by Aaron Hurst

*And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. 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; and the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 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. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. (Genesis 2:18-25)*

Remember, husbands, to love your wives. This is straight from the Word of God. But in this booklet I would like to focus particularly on the wives. The Word of God has much to teach us about women's roles. Let us open up the Word and receive instruction from the Lord. I believe this is a very important subject, a very important message that God has for us. This is not my message but God's message to us. I trust that as we understand the instruction and wisdom and direction that God has for us in His order and structure for husbands, wives and families, this booklet will be a blessing.

I write to you, sisters, not to condemn you, not to find fault with you, but rather to exhort you and encourage you to a beautiful relationship in God's perfect divine order so that you may receive a blessing.

## An Help Meet for Him

As we read in Genesis, when God created all things He said, "Behold, it is good," and it was very good. After the creation of man, the first words that appear from the lips of our God are that it is not good for the man to be alone. As God saw the man there alone, He said that it was not good that the man should be alone. Man is a sociable creature. He desires fellowship, someone with whom he can exchange affection. He desires to inform and be informed, to communicate, to love and be loved. God looked upon man and said that it was not good that the man should be alone.

So God resolved to provide society for the man. It was a beautiful scene. God created all the animals and brought them before Adam. Adam named them, but there was not found a help meet for him. There was not one that was suitable for Adam. The animals and all the created beings were insufficient for the pleasure and satisfaction of man. We see the dignity and the excellence of man. Man was created in the divine image of God. On earth there was not Adam's like. There was not a peer to be found among all the creatures, not one to suit the nature of his soul and to supply his need or satisfy his just desires. There was not one. Adam was alone.

It is written in Genesis 2:21-22, *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; and the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman.* God looked at Adam's aloneness, and He created from a rib a helpmeet for Adam. He created a new being. Woman's formation from the rib of man indicates an inseparable unity and fellowship of her life with his.

I want to interject that if you as a brother have chosen singleness in order to serve God, I am not against that. I believe that is good and right. But I want to focus on the sisters and on the fact that God created a new being.

### ***What Is a Helpmeet?***

The Bible says that God created a helpmeet for Adam. Sisters, you are far more than just an assistant to your husbands. You are far more than someone to do the dishes and wash the laundry. You are far more than just someone to keep house. You were created as a helpmeet and more than a helpmeet. You were created to be man's complement.

Brothers, I trust that as you read this you will gain a new appreciation for the helpmeet that God has created for you and given to you.

Woman, being created as a helpmeet for man, is described in her relationship to man as a helper rather than the initiator. The woman is the one who comes alongside and is the helper. She looks for direction from the Adam in her life, and she will come alongside and be that helper suitable for him. She is not the initiator, but rather a helper. She is an equal spiritually and intellectually. Men, she is not inferior to you. She is not to be stepped upon and treated as a slave; but she is the weaker vessel.

Sisters, you were fashioned and formed by God in His plan to be a sociable companion to man and to be a helpmeet for him. You were not made to be the initiator and to lead out. You are here to supply perfectly man's social need, his need for affection. You are the helpmeet for him.

Helpers look for direction and instruction. Helpers do not lead out. They do not take the role of foreman or boss. They look to another for instruction and direction. Sisters, you were created and formed for that purpose. Those of you who are married, your primary role is to be that help, to be a helpmeet for your husband; not to initiate and lead out, but to look to him for direction and then respond to that direction. You are to be a follower.

Woman, the name given to this new being, was not strictly a name but a designation referring to her relationship to man. She was created to fulfill and be a true companion to man. She was to represent the intimate, that which is beyond the relationship of a parent and child. Notice the words of Genesis 2:23-24: *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. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.* This calls for a relationship that is even beyond that of a parent and child. It is an intimate, sacred relationship. Man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave unto his wife.

### ***This Nature Seen in the Fall***

In Genesis 3 we see the fall of man introduced and another name given to the woman. Her second name, given to her after the transgression, is Eve. This name refers to her function, as defined in Genesis 3:20: *And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.*

If we look at the fall we can see very clearly that she acted true to her nature by not being an initiator but a follower and a helpmeet.

*Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. (Genesis 3:1-7)*

We will not look into all that is contained in this Scripture concerning the fall. I would like to focus on one point: true to her nature of a helpmeet, she was quicker to respond to the direction of another. She responded to the suggestion initiated by the serpent in the garden. Her nature being that of a helpmeet, being created for that purpose, she was looking for direction in life. Here came the serpent and

he began to suggest to her, “Hath God said...?” He began to entice her not to believe God but to disobey Him. She looked at it rather differently than a man looks at things. To him it was more like taking a risk. Quite different from this matter-of-fact attitude, she viewed it wholly from the alluring side. We are not sure what all was taking place there; but we can see her nature of a helpmeet.

## **The Power of Woman’s Influence**

We see in the narrative of the fall the supremacy of influence of woman. Through her stronger personality man was led into disobedience to God’s command. Adam had heard the same command that Eve had, but when she was persuaded, convinced, and beguiled of the devil to take of the fruit, she also persuaded Adam.

Sisters, as we look at the fall we can learn about some of the areas that are battlegrounds for you, areas where you need to find yourself in the place of submission and yieldedness to God and your husband. Trying to influence your husband and bring him under so that you can get him to do what you want is an area that you are going to have to crucify in yourself again and again.

This is quite an awesome thing, that Eve was in transgression herself, but then she also persuaded Adam to take of the fruit. How many women in the world today have that type of personality, that evil nature? They are partakers of the sin that came upon mankind, and they allow that sin to dominate in their hearts. They are enticing and persuading the men and leading them around by the nose, if I may use that term.

My heart’s desire is that as we look at this, we would see the power of influence that a woman has. Sisters, God has given you a beautiful place to stand. You have power to influence your husband and your children. If that is brought under the obedience of Christ, it is a beautiful thing; but if self is on the throne and self has not been crucified, it will bring men to nothing and cause them to disobey God and to sin. The power of a woman’s influence is an awesome thing.

### ***Some Examples from Scripture***

Consider Solomon as we look at Nehemiah 13:26. *Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things?* “These things” were marriages to heathen women, women who did not have the Spirit of God and a love for God burning in their bosoms. Rather they were worshipping idols, and they were self-centered, conceited, and proud. *Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin.*

What is an outlandish woman? It might not be what we think of when we hear the term outlandish. “Outlandish women” here means foreign women, women who were not believers in God. By such women Solomon king of Israel was led into sin. Oh, the power of a woman to influence a man of God like Solomon! There was no king like him in all the nations around. He was beloved of God. He was loved of God and he loved God; but these women whom he married who loved not God had an influence on his life. Maybe they submitted outwardly at first so that they could be his wives, but as Solomon grew older and began to get his eyes off the Lord, they led him astray and caused him to sin. Even Solomon was led into sin by these women.

Another example in Scripture is Ahab. *But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.* (1 Kings 21:25) Ahab did all this wickedness before the Lord. He caused the people of Israel to sin and led them into idolatry. There was a woman behind him, a woman of influence, and her name was Jezebel. She incited him and stirred him up to sin.

One day Ahab turned his face to the wall because he was sad that he could not have Naboth’s vineyard; but Jezebel came along and said, “Don’t worry. I will work it out for you.” She was a wicked woman.

Dear sisters, you have power to influence for good or evil. There are many, many accounts in the Scriptures of the power of a woman. I encourage you to search them out yourselves. Many mighty men have been slain and brought to nothing by the power of the influence of a woman. God planned that you should have influence, but not that it should be running wild, selfishly controlled, and manipulative. Rather it should be under the obedience of the Spirit and power of God. This is a beautiful, beautiful thing. But if there is selfishness and rebellion in the heart of a woman against being in subjection to her husband, it is a damaging, cursed thing. Even Solomon, who was beloved of God and was king, was made to sin by outlandish women.

### ***A Few Withstand***

I would like to note that although many men have been brought to nothing by the power of a woman, some have stood their ground. Adam hearkened unto his wife and took of the fruit. But there was one day that God was looking upon the face of the earth, and He said to Satan as he came before the Lord, "Have you considered my servant Job?" Job's wife said, "What is wrong with you, Job? After all that has happened, do you yet retain your integrity? Curse God and die!" But Job said, "You speak as a foolish woman" and he did not hearken to her.

Years ago there was an evangelist who preached the Gospel, and his wife used to mock him from the audience. She would stand outside and say, "Don't go in and listen to him. He is a liar."

There are some men who have risen above it; but most men, when it comes to the choice of cleaving to their wives or obeying God, will cleave to their wives. There is a strong bond there that is God-designed and God-intended. You have a lot more going for you to bind together than to come apart and be at odds. There is a lot more going for you to stick together than to fight against each other. But the devil wants to destroy the beautiful plan of God, and he has been quite successful in usurping the authority and the order of God's headship. Women are not in their place and it is wreaking havoc in homes and families everywhere.

### **In Subjection**

When sin entered the garden, part of woman's penalty was to be the subordinate one of the pair. She was to be under Adam. We see this in Genesis 3:16: *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.* She was put in a state of subjection under the dominion of her husband. *Thy husband...shall rule over thee.*

Adam and Eve both sinned. The New Testament tells us that Eve was deceived and was in the transgression. She was deceived, and then she persuaded Adam, and he also took of the fruit. Her penalty for such ill-fated leadership was that her husband should rule over her. She forfeited the privilege of equality of leadership in family affairs; she was to be under her husband.

*Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands.* (1 Peter 3:1)

*Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.* (1 Timothy 2:11-14)

Headship is taught very clearly here. Adam was first formed, then Eve. This is God's divine order that He planned for man and woman. Sin brought the woman to a place of subjection and subordination to the man. If there had not been sin, man would always have ruled with wisdom and love, and the woman would always have obeyed with humility and meekness. Without sin Adam's rule over Eve would not have been a grievance. Our own sin and folly make our yoke heavy.

Wives who despise and disobey their husbands, or domineer over them, do not consider that they not only violate a divine law but also block or defeat a divine sentence. How many men are brought to a place where they are not able to rule and lead out because of a wife who is not in submission?

*Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.* (Ephesians 5:20-21) There needs to be a submitting to one another in the fear of God. I am not giving any husband the right to be a lord and boss over his wife. Men, love your wives as Christ loved the church. We see the balance of the scale. There needs to be a submitting one to another. It is a two way street.

However, we see very clearly the order of headship and authority in the home in verses 22-24, *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*

### ***What Is Submission?***

I would like to make this very practical. *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.* This is the duty and role of the wife. It is a high calling. Submit yourself unto your own husband as unto the Lord. We submit to the Lord without reservation, holding nothing back. We have no rights. We give everything to the Lord. We are His. He bought us with His precious blood. We are His own.

This is a high calling. *Submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.* Is there any question in your mind about what it means to submit? We all know what this means. To submit is to surrender one's purposes and plans to God and one's husband. When God designed in His divine plan to make a helpmeet for man, He made a woman. He made someone with whom man could have companionship and fellowship. She is a partner of equal worth and value, but one who should take a subordinate role in submission under the husband.

Wives, you will find yourselves most blessed when you are in line with God's divine design and plan for your life. *Submit yourselves unto your own husbands as unto the Lord.* Submission is a heart issue. It can be seen in a person's actions, but it is a heart issue. When one submits grudgingly, when one resents inwardly, is that true submission? No. That does not bring the blessing of God down upon your life. True submission is glad and joyful surrender to your husband as unto the Lord.

The Bible does qualify this. If your husband is a tyrant, an evil wicked man, and he asks you to disobey Christ, you must not do it. Colossians 3:18 says, *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.* However, do not use this as an excuse to rebel.

### ***The Effect of Rebellion***

Oh the damage that is done by an un-submissive spirit between a husband and wife in their home! What is an un-submissive spirit? It is an un-yielded spirit, un-submitted and in rebellion. When a wife is in rebellion and is not submitting to her husband, it wreaks havoc in that relationship and brings a curse into that home. How many times have you heard a woman lament, "If only my husband would rise up and be a man of God like brother so and so, then I could submit"? May I suggest to you that the reason that the husband cannot rise up is that he has a rebellious wife who will not submit? She will not allow him to lead out, to guide and to rule in the home. This is a very strong message, but it has a beautiful blessing in it, a beautiful jewel.

Rebellion can carry into the next generation. A wife who is not in submission to her own husband as unto the Lord teaches her daughters rebellion in her home. She may say what she wants to with her lips, but when she is not in submission to her husband, she teaches rebellion to her daughters. Oh the wreckage and ruination to those daughters who are being taught rebellion by the example of their mom. It is a very grievous thing. When a daughter gets married she may think that she loves her husband and she would never treat him like her mother treated her dad; but rebellion was taught so thoroughly and so consistently day by day by her mom that it begins to come out in her. Now she is in the same place with her husband. Many tears and many trips to the altar may be necessary to wrestle through and get a right perspective, a right relationship before God.

I ask you this question: from the depths of your hearts, wives, are you in submission to your husbands as unto the Lord? Or do you try to manipulate, try to influence purchases he makes, decisions he makes, what he does? There are wives who have made their husbands wimps because they will not allow them to lead. “No, I don’t want to go that way.” “No, no, I don’t want to go to that church.” “No, I don’t want to do that.” They nag, they entice, they plead, they persuade, they influence to get their way.

Sometimes it is very evident who rules the house. Sometimes it is not so evident, sometimes it is more subtle, but the effects are yet as damaging. Some put on a good show and everything looks wonderful when company is there or when they are in church. No one would ever guess that there is a war going on. But as soon as they leave the drive, they pick up where they left off on the way to church. It is very sad indeed.

Many homes are wrecked, and we wonder why the children rebel. I know the husband and father has a lot to do with this, but let us look at this awful sin that plagues our nation and our churches, women out of order and out of their place, ruling and domineering over their husbands. Wives, in love I beseech you, submit yourselves to your own husbands.

### ***Submission and Reverence***

*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. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. (Ephesians 5:31-33)*

Wives, reverence your husbands. There is nothing sweeter than when everything is open between you. God has called us to far more than a one-flesh relationship. He has called us to be one in heart and in spirit. I trust that you all know what it is to be one in spirit, when there is that beautiful flow of fellowship and God’s blessing is shining down upon your life. You love your husband, and you are in submission to him. Your husband loves God and is in submission to Christ. The blessing of God flows down upon your life and there is that beautiful oneness of spirit. There is nothing unsettled between you--nothing. Oh, what a joy that is! That is how God planned it. That is His design and desire for us.

*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands.* See that you reverence your own husband. That sounds pretty simple. What does it really mean? That little word “see” means that you purposefully make it your aim and see to it that you reverence your husband. As time goes on it is easy to fall into the routine of daily life and take your husband for granted. It is easy not to honor and esteem him like you did on your wedding day. But God tells us here, *Let the wife see that she reverence her husband.* A woman who is married should purposefully see that she reverence her husband. She should reverence him and submit to him as unto the Lord. That is a high calling.

Men, we should not act like lords, saying, “Wife, bring me this, bring me that, do this, do that.” There is a beautiful balance.

If you want to see your husband prosper, if you want to see him grow in his love and in his responsibilities and duties as a husband, begin treating him with reverence and respect and honor. He may become the man that you wish him to be in a shorter amount of time than you thought possible. When you nag at him and resist him, however, you are fighting against God.

### **Keepers at Home**

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

These verses teach us many things, but I would like to zero in on that fact that the older women are to teach the younger women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. We have a lot of different virtues here. The younger women are to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home. These virtues are all vital to a beautiful, blessed home.

Today such women are under attack by the enemy and by society. You know the situation. They ask you about your occupation. “Homemaker? You mean you stay at home and bear children and guide the home? You are a homemaker?” You go out into this world and they ask, “Are these all your children?” Sisters, you have a blessed and a high and a holy calling. You are not just a homemaker. You are a homemaker for God! You are raising your family for God.

When these virtues are in place, the result is a beautiful home that is “home sweet home.” The children are happy in that home. The wife is happy in that home. She finds fulfillment in being discreet. She finds fulfillment in loving her husband. She does not have to go out in the workplace and work for somebody else in some office somewhere. She would much rather serve her family and her husband. She would much rather be adorned with a spirit of sobriety than be out in the workplace where the women are given over to flattering and fussing with the men.

Oh what a curse to a man when his wife does not like to be at home! What a curse when she is not discreet and chaste and pure in heart, in thought, in motive, in action, and in dress. Are you content to fill the slot that God has given you, to be a keeper at home and to be obedient to your own husband?

### **That the Word of God be not Blasphemed**

The Scripture in Titus says, *That the word of God be not be blasphemed*. There is a tremendous price to pay for disobedience to your husband. When the principles of God are violated and a woman is not in that place of submission, subjection, and obedience to her husband, but rather she is constantly pushing against the direction her husband wants to go and where he sets the standard, it brings shame to the name of God. It brings blasphemy to the Word of God. *That the word of God be not blasphemed*.

The world is watching. In many cases they just mock and say, “Ha, ha! Where is your God? You are no different than we. You women are no different than we. You men are no different than we. You are all doing just like we do. You have the same goals and dreams, and your women are chasing after the same things.” What a shame to the testimony of Christ!

The results are amazing when you stand up for Jesus with your family. Then they say, “My, how do you do this?” When God’s order is followed, Mama is in her place of obedience to her husband and the children are in their place of obedience to their parents, the world wonders, “What is the secret? How do you do it?” In the world today, children are rebels running wild, and women are trying to run their husbands. When they see a family in God’s beautiful order, they ask, “What is this?” The name of God is glorified and honored, and you can give credit and testimony to Jesus. What a time to testify for Christ, when the testimony of your life speaks so loudly that they cannot help but see it.

You throw in a disobedient, un-submissive spirit in a wife and it will shatter that beautiful picture I just shared with you. Maybe not right away, but if that spirit is there and working, it will reveal itself. Wives, I encourage you, reverence your husband. Respect him and honor him. Be happy to be at home, a keeper at home, obedient to your own husband, *that the Word of God be not blasphemed*.

### **If Any Obey Not the Word**

Look at 1 Peter 3:1-7. *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; while they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 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. 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 Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*

Again we have a text that could be a whole sermon, but I would like to point out just one thing. *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.* Here is a promise, a beautiful promise.

The Scriptures give us direction concerning a woman who is married to an unbeliever or a husband who departs from God. If he be pleased to dwell with her, let them not separate. Here is a beautiful opportunity for evangelism. *Wives, be in subjection to your own husbands.*

If your husband is bucking against God, being disobedient, and you have a concern for him, you might think that you ought to start preaching to him to straighten him out. But is that what God says here? *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.* The husband will be won by her testimony, by her life.

You cannot fight disobedience with disobedience. There is a time to entreat a husband if he is going astray; but if your husband is disobedient to God and is not listening to God, you cannot make him right. You cannot bring him into obedience by stepping out of your place into disobedience and trying to be God for him. That will not work. Sometimes it might look like it is working, but it usually drives you further apart and makes things worse. If you follow God's plan and God's direction, however, He will go to work and He will go to bat for you.

In this Scripture it says that Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. Do you know what Abraham put Sarah through? He said, "You are such a beautiful woman that I am afraid that when we get over to this land, they will kill me so that they can have you. So you say that you are my sister." You know the story. Hold it up beside Colossians 3, where it says that the woman is to be in subjection to her husband as is fit in the Lord, and it almost seems not to be fit. But Sarah obeyed Abraham, and look what happened. God began to speak to the heart of that king who took Sarah into his harem to be one of his wives and began to trouble that king. Behold what God can do! When you trust God and obey Him without fear, He will come to the rescue and go to bat for you for your husband. The main work that you have to do for your husband who is disobeying God is to get on your knees and pray for him and to reverence him and treat him like a king. He will wonder what happened to you.

I have heard testimony of that many times. The nagging wife gets right with God. She says, "I am not doing it anymore. My lips are sealed." She comes home and her husband expects the same treatment as he has had from day to day, week to week, month to month, and year to year. But something happened to his wife, and she treats him in a completely different way. She honors him, she respects him, and she reverences him. He begins to wonder what happened to her. She got a hold of the grace and power of God. Many times within a short period of time, or sometimes longer, he becomes converted, because the spirit of God now goes to work on him as she is on her knees praying and by her conversation fulfilling the role that God has given her. She wins her husband without a word.

Sometimes the answer may seem long in coming. If you have an unbelieving and disobedient husband, may this encourage you to reverence him more, pray for him more, bless him more, and honor him more in every area that you can without disobeying God. Wait in faith, believing God for the answer for your husband.

## **Adorned with Meekness**

Sisters, do not adorn yourselves with outward adornment. Verse 2 says, *While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear--*when they see your purity, when they see your reverence and your godly life. He goes on to say, do not adorn yourselves with outward adorning. There is something wrong



when a sister has to try to catch the attention of another man. There is something wrong, men, if you say, “Sure, go ahead, dress up, show off. I like that.” There is something wrong. That is not a pure heart.

There is something wrong when a sister has a desire to flaunt herself and to adorn herself with the putting on of apparel and plaiting the hair and wearing of gold. Rather let it be the hidden man of the heart, which is not corruptible. It is no wonder that the world is without purpose and without focus. All that they have their attention on is corruptible. If you take away their makeup and their jewelry and their dress, they look horrible. A lot of them do. It is awful. They paint their faces so much that they get their skin so out of order that they have to keep doing it.

I love to see the beauty of my wife in the way that God has made her. Thank the Lord, she does not need any painting powder.

The hidden man of the heart is the most beautiful part--the hidden man of the heart, which is not corruptible, the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. Many women in the world today know nothing of the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. Sad to say, many churches are also lacking, even in plain communities. They may clothe the body down to the foot in dark garments, but the wife rules the roost and everybody knows it. There is a divided home, and there is rebellion in the children, and they wonder why.

I want to encourage you to have a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price, even as the holy women of old.

## Defraud Not

Let us look at 1 Corinthians 7:1-5. I believe that those to whom this pertains, those who need to understand what it is saying, will understand. *Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.*

Often a woman is tempted to withhold and defraud. If all the other manipulative procedures are failing, she may try this one. That is clearly not right. It is wrong, and it is sin. If you have been or are guilty of that, I advise you to repent and turn away from that rebellious spirit.

## Wisdom from Proverbs

In closing, I would like to look at a few verses out of Proverbs.

*A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.* (Proverbs 12:4) You can be a beautiful crown to your husband. Perhaps you are a crown to your husband; but maybe God wants to polish that crown and make it glow a little brighter. *A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed--she that is continually shaming him, second-guessing his judgment, and belittling him--is as rottenness in his bones.* Sisters, do not do that to your husband.

*Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.* (Proverbs 14:1) She goes along foolishly in rebellion. She is not in submission, not in subjection, not gladly yielding to her husband, not looking up to him in reverence and saying, “Yes, you lead and I will follow. I am with you--where you go, I will go,” but rather resenting and resisting. She is like a woman who plucks down her own house with her own hands.

*A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.* (Proverbs 19:13) If there is a noise going on continually, it can be very annoying and irritating, and before long you will try to find the source and stop that noise. It is like when there is a leak somewhere

and there is a dropping that just keeps dropping. Or if you are driving down the road, and a wing is cracked just a little and it is whistling, you will stop and pull that wing shut. This contentious wife is a continual annoyance and distraction.

This Scripture goes on to say, in verse 14, *House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.*

*It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.* (Proverbs 21:9) Are you a brawling woman? A brawling woman is a quarrelsome woman, and a quarrel is the basis of a conflict. It does not matter what the circumstances are—that is not the issue. Are you a quarrelsome woman? Are you disposed to quarrel? Every time your husband says something, you have another suggestion: “But I think it should be this way,” “But...” The Proverb writer determined that it would be better to be in the corner of a housetop than with a brawling or quarrelsome woman in a wide house.

Similarly, Proverbs 21:19 says, *It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.* A contentious woman? Contentious is very similar to quarrelsome. This is a state of contending or being argumentative. Maybe you do not even raise your voice when you do it, but you are argumentative.

Are you? Are you an angry woman? You might say, “Oh, no, surely I am not angry.” But that word “angry” is very revealing. It is simply feeling or showing strong displeasure or bad temper. Perhaps you respond to a situation thinking, “I will not say anything back, but I am going to show my displeasure.” Or maybe, “I am not even going to show it, but I am sure feeling it. I am going to let him know I am feeling it, but I am going to hide it from the children. They will not know, but he will know.” Really, though, you can’t hide it from your children. They know. They learn by example. They sense the spirit of what is going on.

It is better to dwell in the corner of a housetop than with a brawling woman. And it is better to dwell in the wilderness than with a contentious woman, one who is argumentative and angry, showing her displeasure or bad temper.

*Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.* (Proverbs 31:10-11)

*The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.* Her husband has full confidence in her and can say, “Wherever I lead, she is with me. She is my helpmeet in the truest sense of the word. She is my partner in all that God has called me to. She is my supporter, and she is my helpmeet. She is a blessing to me. I would never be where I am today if it was not for my godly wife.”

That is the kind of wife you want to be, a virtuous woman. *He shall have no need of spoil.* He has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.

*This booklet was transcribed from a message preached by Aaron Hurst at Charity Christian Fellowship in 1998. Transcribed by Jeannine Downin. Adapted by Michelle Smith.*

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