

The Christian Husband's And The Christian Wife's Responsibilities In The Home



By B. R. Hicks

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Introduction

The LORD God created man as male and female, making them in His own Image and Likeness; then, He introduced them as the rulers and masters over His already created world. God placed Adam-male and Adam-female as His joint representatives on Earth, after having made them one in a holy marriage union. God's Word says, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Mark 10:9).

The LORD God has placed weighty responsibilities upon both the husband and the wife within the bonds of matrimony. Genesis, chapter two, verses eighteen through twenty-five, records the origin of marriage, and our LORD confirmed its constitution in Matthew, chapter nineteen, verses five and six, and in Mark, chapter ten, verses five through ten.

Marriage in its primitive, pristine state forms an inseparable union between one man and one woman. It was instituted for the mutual comfort and happiness of the pair and for the propagation of the human race. Marriage dates from Paradise in the Garden of Eden, before Adam-male and Adam-female's fall. It was instituted by God and designed by Him to fulfill man's need for a helpmeet and mate.

In God's eyes, marriage is an indissoluble union except for one or the other of the marriage partners being guilty of fornication. Marriage is a divine institution designed by God's Purposive Will to form a permanent union between the husband and the wife so that they can be helpful to one another. God's Word presents marriage as the deepest corporeal and spiritual unity of a man and a woman.

Without this conjugal tie, the inhabitants of this world would have been a mixed multitude. The parental love of the family circle and the parental wisdom of the family institution would have been altogether unknown.

Christ's Word confirms, simplifies, and vindicates from abuse God's original and sacred ordinance of marriage. Christ's Word confirms God's original appointment of monogamy in the marriage relationship. Jesus' presence and miracle of changing the water into wine at the wedding in Cana happily displays His teaching and feelings about the holy estate of marriage.

Jesus Christ taught the divine origin and sacredness of the marriage institution. Holy marriage does more than fulfill filial duty, it unifies. The husband and the wife become one through the purity of God's Purposive Will and His holy canopy of *kaw-bode* Glory upon the marriage bed. Thus, in marriage, the husband and wife join together to form one complete human being. One person complements the other person.

Without the union of a male and a female, there can be no family, no parental care, and no society of mankind. According to God's good Purposive Will, marriage is the beginning of a new family which involves a man leaving his father and mother's home and cleaving (or being *glued*) to his wife. The closeness of a man's tie to his wife should prevail over the closeness of his tie to his parents. Man's new union in marriage implies that he is to adhere and to be devoted to his new moral and social union with his wife. A man is bound to his wife in an exclusive sexual fellowship, which, according to God's Holy Word, should be permanent until death parts them. In the beginning, God revealed His Perfect Will for man through His uniting of Adam-male and Adam-female. Having the LORD Jesus Christ live in his heart and entering God's divinely appointed institution of holy marriage cures mortal, carnal man's lack of purity of thought, speech, and action. Through God's divine provision, marriage is one of the main pillars that supports society in all its forms— from the family to the State.

Sadly, the breaches in marriage that break wedlock, i.e. sexual sins and desertion, have increased. The added expense of maintaining families, man's desire for a higher style of living, plus many couples' desires not to undertake the responsibility of children are all factors that have caused an unparalleled decay of family life. In turn, these facts have promoted the moral decay of religion and the State.

Nevertheless, God still requires obedience from mankind concerning His laws of marriage, especially from those who believe in Him as their Saviour. Without conjugal ties, the inhabitants of this world would have been a mixed multitude. There would not have been the family circle and family instruction, and parental love and care would have been entirely unknown. Consequently, Christianity confirms and vindicates God's original and sacred ordinance of marriage.

By God's Holy Spirit, the Apostle Paul, in First Corinthians, chapter seven, verses thirteen and fourteen, also

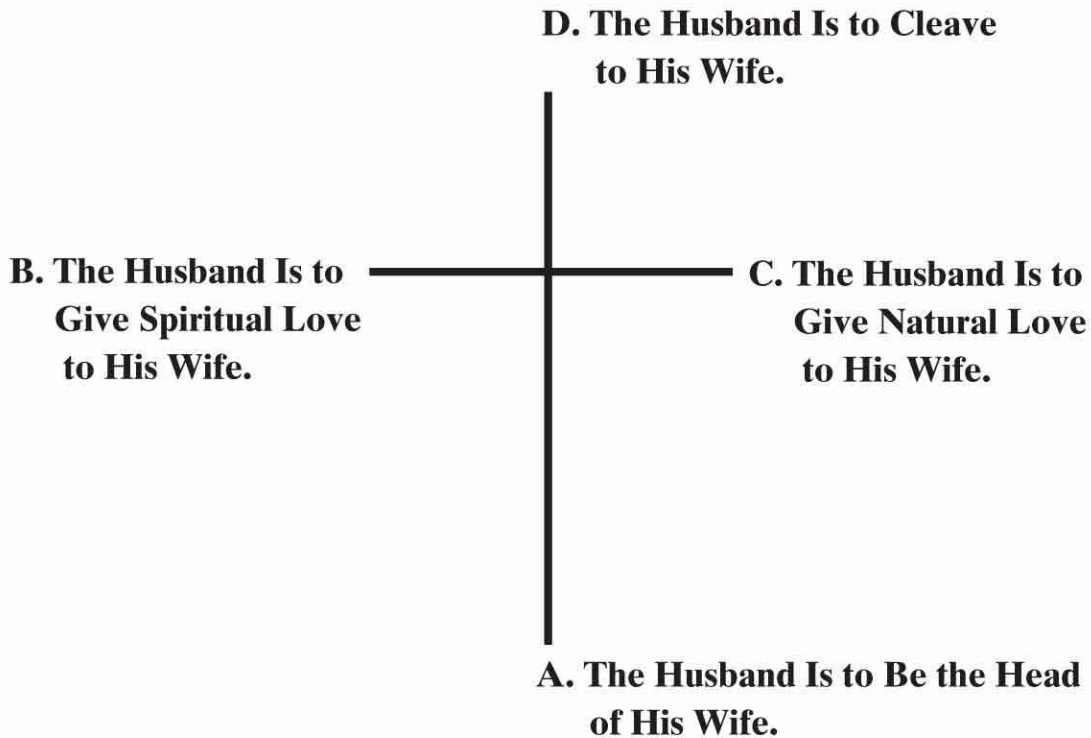
expressed his reverence and respect for marriage. He guarded marriage so carefully that he instructed believers who were already joined to unbelievers not to disturb their marriage relationship if the unbeliever consented to continue the marriage because to remain together would be for their mutual good, and any children they might have would be sanctified by the believing spouse. My aim in writing this book is that the following few, simple words will give readers an overview of the serious responsibility of marriage from God's point of view.

— The Author

Chapter One

A Stature Truth About The Christian Husband's Responsibilities In His Marriage

The following Stature of Truth outlines the Christian husband's responsibilities to his Christian wife in their marriage relationship:



A. The Husband Is to Be the Head of His Wife.

Before the Apostle Paul revealed the relative responsibilities the husband and wife owe to each other, he reminded them of the mutual submission that, as Christians, they owed to one another.

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God (Ephesians 5:21).

A husband and wife must humbly condescend to bear one another's burdens. As mutual recipients of Christ's Mercy and Grace, they must not pridefully advance themselves above each other. They must not, in proud arrogance, try to make laws for one another which are contrary to God's Word. A husband and wife should serve each other out of fear of the LORD and for Christ's sake. Where there is mutual love, fear, and respect for the LORD and for each other, with submission and condescension on each of the partner's parts, their duties to each other will be better performed.

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 (Ephesians 5:23).

Although the Apostle Paul first instructed wives to submit to their husbands, we are going to establish the headship of the Christian husband to his wife, first, because we are going to study the Stature of Truth concerning the husband's duties in the home, first. The Hebrew word for *submission*, here, is *kaw-nah*, meaning to bend the knee; hence to humiliate, bring down low into subjection.

Before God placed the woman under subjection to her husband, He placed the husband under the Headship of Christ. A man must exchange his carnal mind for Christ's Mind.

If we could only catch a glimpse of the beauty of this picture, our heart would be thrilled with God's order. As soon as we take the headship of the husband out of its spiritual context and relationship to Christ, the true, divine Head, we make the man's headship an ugly and coercive thing.

Because the head is the seat of reason, wisdom, knowledge, and the fountain of sense, it is more excellent than the rest of the body. God has given the husband the preeminence in the home, allotting him the responsibility and right to direct and govern under the LORD Jesus Christ's Headship. This is why a husband is referred to as the *head* of the wife.

As Christ is the Head of the Church and is the Saviour of the body, so also is the husband the head of the wife. Christ exercises His Authority over the Church for the purpose of saving her from evil and supplying her with every good and perfect gift. Likewise, the husband should strive for the life, protection, and comfort of his wife; then, she will be able to submit more cheerfully to him.

Before the Apostle Paul placed the wife under further responsibility to her husband, he reminded the husband of his awesome responsibility of being the head of his wife under Christ's Headship. Exercising the headship over a Christian home under Christ's Headship is no small task or obligation. The husband is answerable and accountable to the LORD Jesus Christ who has delegated to him the duty of being the head over the wife according to God's Master Plan and Purposive Will. The husband must remember that he is subject to God's penalty if he defaults in finding Christ's Headship for his wife and family. As the husband assumes the Headship of Christ, it becomes his duty to establish a family altar, handle the discipline of the children, and take the oversight of the spiritual welfare of his family.

Too often we find the husband more than willing to assume the headship over carnal things, while he altogether neglects spiritual things. Some men overwork their headship in carnal matters to such an extent that it becomes a serious point of contention and causes division in the family. Husbands will answer to God for their responsibility and conduct as the head of their home.

Sometimes, a wife will push her power and authority in the home and usurp the husband's place. A part of every woman likes to rule and reign over things according to her own carnal ways, but sometimes the husband is at fault because he is derelict in his duties. Many men refuse to fill their God-given roles and push and shrug their responsibilities off onto their wives. These situations create problems which disturb the happiness of any home. Actually, a woman wants to respect her husband, but if he fails to take the proper authority and leadership in the home, the wife finds respecting her husband very difficult and, at times, impossible. Children also will respect their father as they should when they see him exercise his proper authority in the home. If a husband will wait faithfully on Christ the LORD, he will receive from Him the superior Wisdom and Knowledge that he needs in order to govern his household.

B. The Husband Is to Give Spiritual Love to His Wife.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, (Ephesians 5:25,26).

The husband is to execute his authority through spiritual love, for without love the husband will abuse his

superiority and headship. He must love his wife even as Christ loved the Church. Christ's Love for the Church is a beautiful example for the husband to follow. Christ's Love is sincere, pure, ardent, and constant, despite the imperfections and failures of the Church. Certainly the greater responsibility falls on the husband. With greater exaltation, always comes greater responsibility. Many people want to assume positions of ruling and reigning, but they fail to see the accompanying accountability and responsibility.

The two verses above describe spiritual love, so from this point of view, they add more about how a husband is to love his wife.

1. The Husband's Love Should Be Sanctifying Love.

Because of His spiritual Love for the Church, Jesus Christ gave Himself for the Church in order to sanctify it. Sanctification* has a number of meanings, but we shall view only its primary meaning here.

Sanctification not only means to make clean; it also implies consecration, a setting apart, and an offering as a sacrifice. Jesus Christ desires to endue all the members of His Church with the principles of holiness and to deliver them from the guilt, the pollution, and the dominion of sin. Thus, He sets the Church aside as a peculiar treasure for Himself.

Many occasions arise in daily living when the husband needs to react to a situation with sanctifying love. For example, if something or someone has provoked his wife's jealousy, and her mind has become defiled with anger, fear, insecurity, or doubt, he *can* react with anger, or he can reassure his wife with sanctifying words of spiritual love and say, "I love you. I have chosen you for my wife. Jesus has made us one, and I prefer you above all others." In this way, he will restore and preserve the unity of their home.

This is not fleshly love, but a spiritual ministering to her which comes out of Christ's Nature. As the husband sanctifies his wife, he consecrates and sets her apart unto himself; thus, their home will be filled with a new union of love and peace. Instead of allowing a breach and a break to form between them, which would fill their home with sinful attitudes and dispositions, the husband needs to sanctify and purify his wife's heart and mind immediately, just as Christ sanctifies the Church.

2. The Husband's Love Should Be Cleansing Love.

Spiritual love will cleanse the impurities of the heart and mind. Because He loved the Church, Christ sanctified and cleansed it; that is, He made the Church clean, pure, and clear through His Words. Likewise, the husband must love his wife and speak to her with anointed words of spiritual love, which will keep his wife's heart and mind pure and clear from any thought of a strange lover or opposition.

A woman is more emotionally sensitive than a man. She is prone to be upset and disturbed about little things that a man hardly notices since he is the one who is usually emotionally stronger and more steadfast. Therefore, a husband needs to minister to his wife the spiritual and natural cleansing love that she so often needs. A little reassurance of his love for her, a small word of his appreciation for her labours, a tiny bit of his understanding and sympathy for her painful situations, a little of his kind attention in her moments of loneliness, a minute demonstration of his thoughtfulness at unexpected times will forever engrave his epistle of love in her heart. A husband has so many ways in which he can cleanse his wife's heart and soul with Christ's spiritually purifying Love. Notice what the wise man said in the Book of Proverbs:

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver (Proverbs 25:11).

A timely word is so beautiful, precious, and enduring. A proper word spoken on the revolving wheel of time is so eternally profitable. Beautiful words are like living, golden apples that hang on a tree against the background of its silvery green leaves, shining under the brilliant rays of the sun, gloriously ready and waiting for some weary pilgrim on life's highway, who needs his thirst quenched and his hunger satisfied.

Proper words from the LORD can do amazing things for good in their eternal influence on the human mind. By using Jesus Christ's Love and God-given Wisdom, a husband can cleanse his wife's agitated and troubled mind any moment of the day or night. The surest way for a husband to bring his wife under subjection to him is by the Power of Christ's Love. Harsh words and a stinging rod can never bring a wife under willing submission and subjection to her husband. God Himself does not force nor drive us, but He chooses to *draw* us into submission, subjection, and obedience through His infinite, divine Love. This is true in the husband-wife relationship. The husband must minister

to his wife with his spiritual love, love that has found its source in Jesus Christ. With this love, a husband can always sanctify and cleanse his wife.

3. The Husband's Love Should Be Presenting Love.

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 (Ephesians 5:27).

Jesus loved the Church so that He might present it to Himself without deformity or defilement; thus, it would be entirely pleasing in His Eyes. How do you suppose Jesus will present His Bride before the Father? Is He going to say, "Father, look at this ugly thing I picked up out of the pit of sin"? This may sound ridiculous, but this is precisely how a husband can present his wife to others if he speaks of her in a degrading and demeaning manner.

A wife is not a perfect creature. She has her weaknesses and defects; however, she also has her strengths, supports, and skills. Nevertheless, *presenting love* from her husband will display her good energy and effectiveness, rather than unveil her derogatory defects. A husband can present his wife in such a way that others see only the defects of her spots, blemishes, and wrinkles. This is a thing which either a husband or a wife can be guilty of before God. It is impossible to speak critically about someone all the time and still have a right attitude toward them when you see them face to face. It also is impossible for a husband to present his wife in a wrong light and, then, expect to have a feeling of unity and harmony with her when they are together. As the saying goes, "Hearing is believing."

Each time a husband confesses and emphasizes his wife's flaws and faults, he becomes all the more firmly convinced of them. This is why the LORD wants us to confess the good works that He has done for us — such as our salvation, our healing, and our good blessings that we have received from Him. The more we confess the Truth, the more we believe it! If a husband and wife will confess the good things about one another, they also will begin to appreciate and love one another more and more.

Jesus Christ is going to present to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing. The husband needs to have this same *presenting love* for his wife. God requires that he must present her good points. If a husband dwells on his wife's good qualities, she will begin to appear in his eyes as a very wonderful person and the precious treasure that she is.

4. The Husband's Love Should Be Nourishing Love.

So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but **nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:** (Ephesians 5:28,29).

The LORD Jesus Christ nourishes and cherishes the Church. He daily provides His eternal Living Substance of Truth that is necessary for the life, development, and growth of His Church. Because of His Holy Nature, the LORD constantly holds dear, values highly, and tenderly treats His Church well. He continually and continuously furnishes His Church with all the good things she needs. The LORD Jesus Christ, in His omniscient Eyesight, sees what is needful and good for His Church and what is conducive to her everlasting happiness and welfare. Therefore, He cherishes and nourishes her according to His good Purposive Will. The LORD Jesus Christ gave His very Flesh and Blood as Bread and Drink to nourish His Church.

Likewise, the husband is commanded to cherish and nourish his wife by supplying her physical, spiritual, and mental needs, even as he supplies his own needs. A husband does not hate his own flesh, no matter how deformed or imperfect it might be, but nourishes and cherishes it and helps it to live in the best way possible. A man takes care of himself with a great deal of tenderness. He industriously supplies himself, as much as possible, with everything that is convenient and good for himself. God commands a husband to do the same things for his wife. When a husband loves his wife with this class of spiritual love, she willingly submits and remains in subjection to him. This is *nourishing* and *cherishing love* in action.

C. The Husband Is to Give Natural Love to His Wife.

"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies." The husband must nurture his wife and love her with as cordial and ardent an affection as that with which he loves his own body. It is only natural that we love and care for our own physical bodies. When we are uncomfortable or in pain, we immediately take action to relieve and to

remove our discomfort.

Likewise, the husband must seek to minister to his wife with the same kind of natural love that will try to relieve the pain and discomforts of his wife's body. The husband's physical love will not push the wife beyond her physical endurance but will consider her body as he considers his own body. When she is tired and exhausted, he will help her to rest. Remember, God uses the cords of natural love and physical attraction to help draw a man and woman together in the first place; therefore, the husband should allow this natural love to minister to his wife, thus increasing their unity and togetherness.

D. The Husband Is to Cleave to His Wife.

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 (Ephesians 5:31).

The Hebrew word for *cleave* is *daw-bak*, meaning to adhere, to cling, to be faithful, to stick to, to catch by pursuit, abide fast together, be joined together. Some husbands refuse to leave their relatives and cleave unto their wives. This is unspeakably tragic and unscriptural and prevents the home from having a solid foundation that would make it a happy place.

Adam-male spoke these prophetic words when God brought Adam-female to him, after He had made her:

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh (Genesis 2:24).

Adam-male had to be prophesying on this occasion since he had no father nor mother to leave. In the LORD's Name, Adam gave a prophetic law to all his posterity concerning the Spiritual Principle of a husband's cleaving to his wife. The strength of the virtue of God's divine Ordinance concerning the principle of cleaving to one's wife is a stronger bond than the natural tie between parents and a son. Although the bond of love is great and firmly binds a son to his father and mother, who begat him and bare him, yet the son must quit his parents at marriage and be joined to his wife. Consequently, it is important for a son to have his parents' consent to his marriage so that he can still render just respect, reverence, and love to his parents while he cleaves to his wife. Otherwise, the son will be undutiful to his parents and rob them of their rightful interest in him and fraudulently alienate himself from their parental affection for him while he is cleaving to his wife. There is a great need for prayerful prudence on the parts of both parents and their son before the son enters into a marriage relationship.

A man's obligation to his parents is not canceled upon his marriage to his wife, but his marriage relationship must be preferred above all others because the principle of cleaving to one's wife establishes a closer union than his parental relationship. The husband must leave all other relationships and cleave only unto his wife. They are to be one flesh. What a complete joining and lasting union this is.

To *cleave* is the fourth and last point on the Christian Husband's Stature; it is the same Truth as point three on the Wife's Stature. The Spiritual Principle of Joining and Cleaving is a true bond for both the husband and the wife.

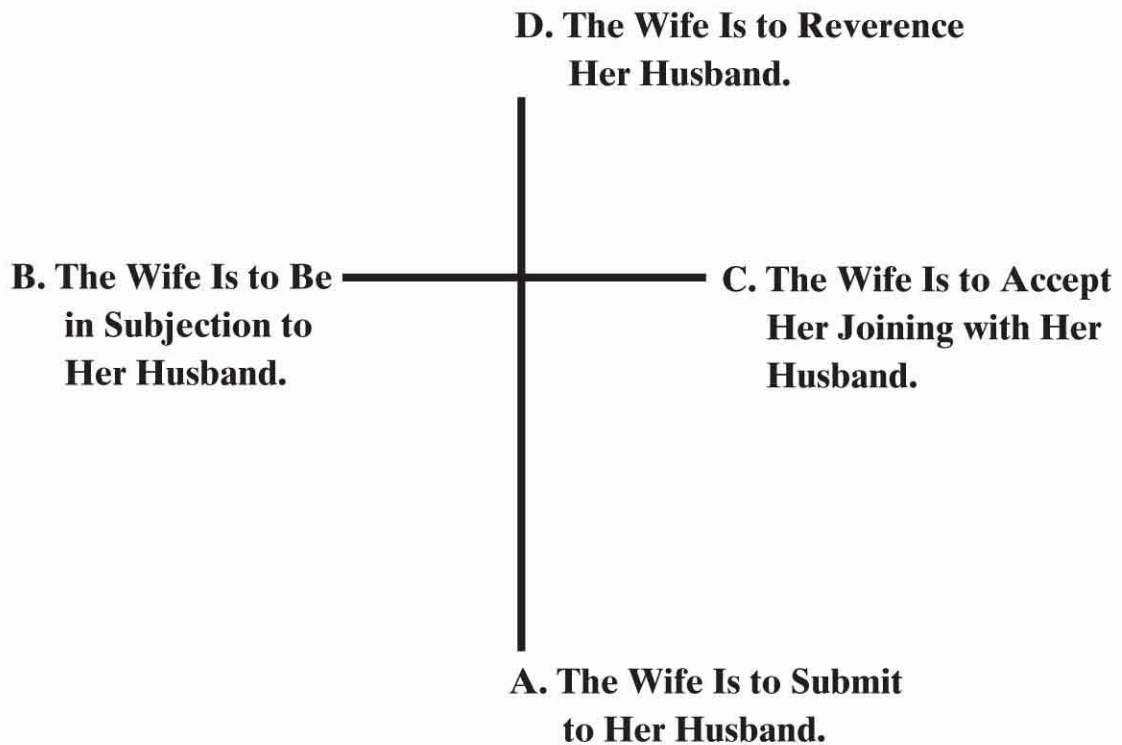
* See: B. R. Hicks, [*The Sanctification of Overcoming Believers*](#) (Jeffersonville, Indiana: Christ Gospel Churches Int'l., Inc., 1995)

Chapter Two

A Stature Of Truth About The Christian Wife's Responsibilities In Her Marriage

A Christian wife is a woman who is a believer in her heart in the LORD Jesus Christ and who is lawfully married. A wife is a woman of mature age who is united to a husband in the lawful bonds of wedlock. A Christian woman should examine the awesome spiritual and natural responsibilities that God's Word places upon a wife so that she can choose in advance to take on herself the responsibility of obedience to God's Word. A Christian wife is answerable and accountable to God for these things: the debt of obedience she owes to the LORD; the trust her Christian husband puts in her; the dutiful obligations of performing true service in her home. She must be willingly and lovingly responsible in all her duties in her home.

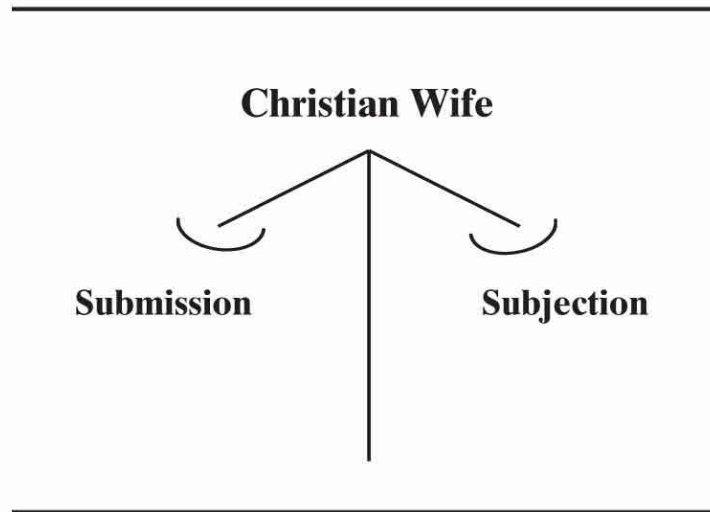
Responsibility is a great blessing since it educates a person in how to care for other things round about him or her. Responsibility educates a person in how to work under God's watchful Eye because He is the Master and Owner to Whom all persons are personally accountable for their work on Earth. If the divine Master, Jesus Christ, took no account of His servants, they surely would take no care for His Plan, Purpose, and Judgment. The Master and Owner demands the acceptance of responsibility according to the capacity and power He gives a person. Every hour of life brings an awareness of the awesome responsibility a person faces once he or she is awake to the realization of the eternal, immortal harvest that will result from having lived on this Earth. Whether the harvest is good or evil, every person is accountable before the LORD, the Just Judge, for assuming his God-given responsibilities.



A. The Wife Is to Submit to Her Husband.

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. **Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord** (Ephesians 5:21,22).

God requires a wife to be in submission and in subjection to her Christian husband. The act of submission is accomplished in a believer's spiritual education, while the act of subjection is displayed in a believer's moral development.



The act of true submission is an inner revelation to yield, resign, or surrender to the power, control, or will of another, according to God's Purposive Will. Submission is true yielding, without murmuring, to God's Master Plan in His Word and to the good Purpose in His Will. Humbly acknowledging the rightful power and authority of another displays true submission. When the Holy Spirit makes a wife sensible of her needs of Christ's Humility, she will submissively seek Him for His Humility so that He can help her to yield inwardly in her heart and to acknowledge her husband's God-given power and authority in the home.

Remember, as believers, we also have the responsibility of submitting one to another, as long as our submission does not cause us to do something contrary God's Word or His Purposive Will. Christians owe each other a mutual condescending to bear one another's burdens. Believers should have a submissive spirit and be ready to perform any duties, regardless of the respective place or station that God has allotted to them. Mutual respect and humility toward one another should be the keystone of our relationships as fellow believers in Christ. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Rome on this subject.

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; **in honour preferring one another;** (Romans 12:10).

Wives, especially, are commanded to submit to their husbands as unto the LORD. The Greek word for *submit* is defined as subordinate, to obey, to be subject to, to submit self unto. God's Word speaks very plainly. We do not need to be prudish nor apologetic about it. Paul's Epistles were read in public, and as we read them, we shall find their Truths helpful and healing to many of our problems today.

The word *submit* concerns the marital relationship between husbands and wives. Many problems arise in a home because of the lack of understanding in this area of experience. In First Corinthians, chapter seven, Paul gave us detailed instructions about the marital relationship.

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** (I Corinthians 7:1-5).

The Corinthian believers had sent a list of questions to the Apostle Paul, and in verse one, he restated their questions; then, in verse two he began his answers. They had written this: "It is good for a man not to touch a woman." Paul answered, "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife..." In other words, Paul agreed with their statement to some extent. If God has called a man into a life of celibacy, then it is good for a man not to touch a woman. Some men, but very few, are called to walk in this way. It is possible to live such a life if God has actually called an individual (man or woman) into this place. But to practice true celibacy, one must do so because he has a gift from God or because he has grown to full spiritual maturity. Being God-controlled, not self-controlled, can make celibacy a reality.

The Apostle realized that if such an injunction were placed upon believers in general, it would only lead to the sin of fornication. Therefore, he commanded, "Let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." The biological urges of human beings are not sinful. God established the marriage union and blessed it. With this in mind, the Apostle continued to remind husbands and wives of their responsibilities to one another. They were not to abstain from their marital relationship except during seasons of fasting and prayer when, by mutual consent, they gave themselves to seek the LORD.

That a woman is to submit to her husband is still true. However, the matter of *submitting* involves something more than an outward submission. True submission includes honouring and obeying because the principle of love is working in one's heart. Wives can be outwardly submissive but inwardly rebellious, angry, and contrary. God requires both an inward and an outward submissive spirit. Although this may seem impossible to have, Christ can work the right spirit and attitude in one's heart in all circumstances and situations.

A woman can be absolutely merciless toward her husband. She can expect a man to work to provide a good living, assist her around the house, and spend time with her and their children, yet she can be contrary and utterly rebellious when the time comes for her to submit to her husband's conjugal rights and needs.

The Christian home is supposed to picture the love relationship between Christ and His Bride. The spirit-filled husband is to love, cherish, and care for his wife, but the Spirit-filled wife has her responsibilities as well. One of her responsibilities is to submit to her husband and defraud not. Only the LORD is able to make a husband what he ought to be according to the Word of God, just as only the LORD can make a wife what she ought to be. If, together, a husband and wife seek to grow spiritually, the LORD will work in their hearts, delight, love, and harmony that God intended for them to have, and their Christian home will flourish.

B. The Wife Is to Be in Subjection to Her Husband.

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** (Ephesians 5:23,24).

In her spiritual education, after the wife has allowed Christ Jesus to teach her to have inner submission in her heart toward her husband's headship that he receives from Jesus Christ, it is easy, in her moral development, for her to display actions of subjection toward her husband in their home.

Not only is the wife to submit to her husband inwardly, in her heart, but she also is to be in subjection to him in everything outwardly, according to Christ's Purposive Will. Her outward subjection under the authority and control of her husband is no problem if she has first learned Christ's submission in her heart. Where Christ's eternal Love rules and reigns in hearts, submission and subjection are a mutual joy before the LORD. However, in the Spirit-filled Christian home, God only places the wife under the headship of the husband concerning the *things* of their relationship. God does not place a husband as head over his wife's *personal spiritual life*.

The Church is to be subject to Christ with cheerfulness, fidelity, and humility, according to His laws of governmental control; likewise, the wife should be subject to her husband in everything over which his authority extends and in everything that is lawful and consistent with God's Purposive Will.

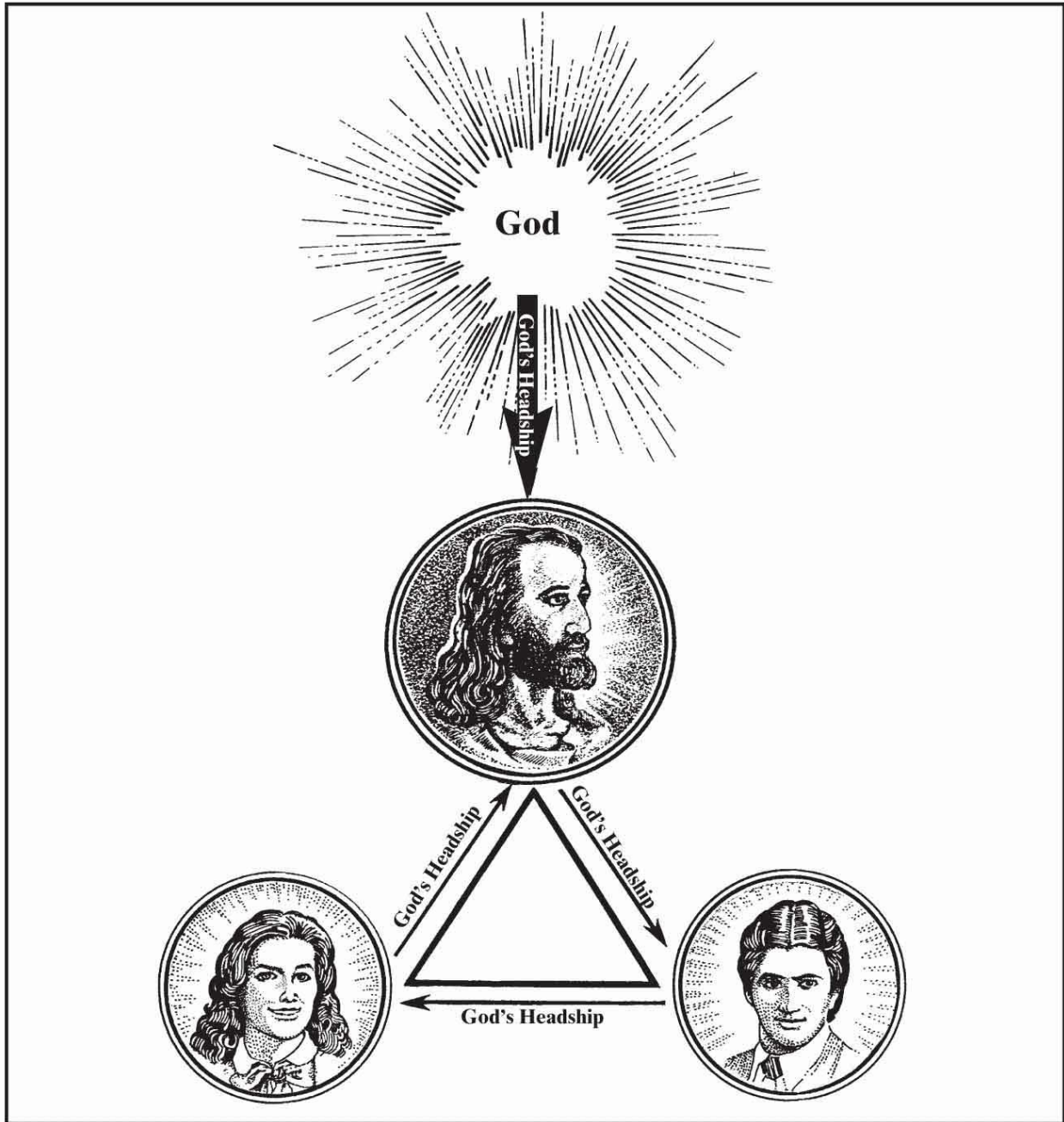
To properly understand the headship of the husband, we need to refresh our memory about the instruction that the Apostle Paul gave in the Book of First Corinthians.

But I would have you know, that **the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of man is God** (1 Corinthians 11:3).

The risen LORD Jesus Christ, in His Mediatorial Office and in His eternal Divinity and glorified Humanity is the Supreme, Sovereign Head over all mankind. And God the Father is the Son's Head.

This is the true order of Headship: God over Christ; Christ over man; and man over woman. Thus, we see only one true Head in the Spirit-filled Christian home, namely God and His Christ. As the man accepts God's Headship through Christ, he is able to pass God's Headship down to the woman. In order for the husband to rule according to Christ's Headship, he also must surrender to the LORD Jesus Christ by laying aside his own carnal headship of reason, wisdom, and knowledge. Many times a man wants to hold on to his carnal headship and use it to try to rule over his wife because he misunderstands the Scriptures. Consequently, he makes false demands upon his wife and declares that his carnal rulership is sanctioned by God's Word. The only Headship the LORD established in the home is that of God and His Christ, which means that a Christian man and wife must both give up their carnal

headships so that the Headship of God and His Christ can be established. The Apostle Paul established this same Spiritual Principle in Ephesians, chapter five, which is the spiritual Headship of Christ being passed *through* the man to the woman. The head of the wife is the husband; the Head of the husband is Christ; the Head of Christ is God. This is God's order of Headship!



This divine order of God's unified Headship is the only way the Christian home can have true spiritual unity and harmony. Family problems arise if the wife usurps her husband's God-given authority and refuses to be in subjection to Christ's Headship that comes through him. When she rules with her own carnal will, Christ's Headship is pushed out of the home. Likewise, when the man fails to obtain Christ's Headship and rules with his carnal head, Christ's Headship is still pushed out of the home. Troubles are always generated when there are two obstinate wills and carnal heads in a conflicting power struggle. How unspeakably blind is man's carnal will. Just so he can say he is a king, a person's corrupt will causes him to rule in darkness, death, and destruction, rather than to humble

himself and surrender to live in Light, Life, and Love.

God desires to establish His Headship through Christ in every Christian home. It is the responsibility of the husband to seek and to submit to Christ's Headship, first for his own life and, then, for his wife. This is God's ordained position of authority and responsibility for the husband. If a man will sincerely and humbly seek the LORD's Mind, the LORD will especially reveal to him His Wisdom and His Will. The LORD never gives us a place of responsibility without supplying the resources that we need to fill that place.

Then, according to God's Word, the woman's position in relation to her husband in the home should be one of subjection to him in all things. While the husband has the position of authority and rulership in the home, he is also accountable to God for the responsibility his position brings.

As the husband and wife humbly pray together for Christ's Headship to have the supremacy in their home, His Headship will create a perfect home situation of love, joy, and peace. A spirit of teamwork always is the end result when a husband and wife both fill their appointed places before God. Christ's Sovereign, Supreme Headship ends all competition and conflict in the home. If a husband fails to take Christ's Headship, it is the responsibility of the wife to fast and pray for Christ's Headship to be revealed. God will hold the husband accountable and responsible for his failure to find Christ's Headship. But if the wife is faithful to seek it in her husband's stead, the LORD will bless her by revealing to her His Master Plan and Purposive Will.

C. The Wife Is to Accept Her Joining to Her Husband.

A husband and wife are so fully joined, fastened, or combined that they are called "one flesh." Many marriage problems arise because the marriage partners ignorantly fail to be joined fully, or they deliberately are unwilling to be joined fully to each other as spouses. Following are a few practical illustrations of how couples run into difficulty in trying to accept this joining: First, there is the matter of finances. Too often such a practical matter as finances occupies a very unimportant place during courting days, but it is not long after marriage until it moves to the forefront. This is one important area where a wife must be willing to accept her joining to her husband. She must live within the boundaries of his earning ability. Often a marriage is stormy because the wife refuses to limit her spending to what her husband can provide. She married the man, but because she refuses to be joined in the area of his earning ability, even though she knew about his earning skills before she married him, there is a constant hassle over money matters, which produces conflict and discontent. Nevertheless, they are one flesh after marriage.

Then, there is the matter of imperfections. We all have heard that love is blind. So often this is true when both parties are caught up in a rush of romantic emotion and excitement. But marriage brings a settling down and a need for adjustment to the daily grind of living. Then, comes a rude awakening! Each partner begins to discover some imperfections in the other that he or she had not seen before. He or she will see defects, faults, and failures that were not observed before. If they accept their joining and assume their responsibility to pray, to forgive, and to help each other, they can help each other to stride forward in their spiritual education and moral development. Otherwise, they will reject being joined to each other's faults. Consequently, a husband and wife will generate an accusing spirit toward one another about the other's defects, faults, and failures; then, the battle is on. The wife will begin to reject her husband as a person because she sees his temper, his jealousy, his careless ways, and she will forget that they are now joined. No longer is it HIS or HER fault; it is now OUR fault.

Therefore, a husband and wife must pray, forgive, and help each other to overcome their imperfections. It is not God's Will for a husband and wife to be divided into two factions in the home, rending, tearing, accusing, and blaming one another for "our faults." God has joined two separate individuals and has made them collectively one. So whatever fault or imperfection exists after marriage, it becomes a problem for both of them.

At times, the matter of different backgrounds is also a point of contention in a marriage. Even if there are *similar* backgrounds, there are still distinct *differences* between families. This is an element which often causes a division and a conflict between a husband and wife. How much bickering and agitation could be avoided in a Christian home if the husband and wife would understand and accept the joining of backgrounds that their marriage creates. Their individual backgrounds no longer exist because they have become a new unified background. In a marriage, the two separate backgrounds must blend into a new union, thus creating a new, unified background all its own that will be passed on as a foundation for their children.

Children are a very important part of the home and family. The hardest thing for parents to do is to accept their unified joining in their children. This area is especially sensitive because it deals with each person's selfish, prideful heart. Both mom and dad are often so eager to be solely enthroned in the hearts of their children that they may create

a very competitive situation in the home by striving over who is going to be first. It is so easy for each parent to vie for sole supremacy in their children's affections. Instead of the parents standing together and accepting the joining in their children and sharing equally in their affections, they each compete for their children's favor.

These evil actions of parents begin very early in the lives of their children. Unless they are careful, they will creep upon them unawares. For example, "Are you daddy's girl? Are you mommy's boy?" each parent asks. Conflict begins as quickly and simply as this. Thus, before parents realize it, competition over children in the home gains proportions far beyond their control. If no real joining exists between the parents concerning the discipline of their children, a real division will take place in the home. When it is the father who disciplines, the mother will rise to the child's defense and vice versa. Before long, a child stands in the middle, while each parent tugs at him, trying to gain his favor by defending the child against the opposite parent's discipline.

The husband's and wife's joining is not to be to the child. Their joining is to be to each other. The husband is to cleave to his wife, and the wife is to accept her joining to him. Then, together, they can enjoy their children and work in unity and harmony in the best interest for their welfare. The biggest favor parents can render to their children is to present a true picture of their complete joining as husband and wife. Parents must be united in discipline and authority so that their children will feel safe and secure. If children do not learn to come under authority and discipline in the home, they will find it difficult to come under authority and discipline in school, in business, and in God's House as well. This authority and discipline will come only as the parents stand united and joined in their decisions. Many children have lost their respect for their father because the mother has not accepted her joining to her husband. Without respect, there can be no authority or control over any child.

God's Way is the best Way. As a husband and wife accept their joining, there will be harmony, unity, and peace in their home. Home can be a little bit of heaven under these circumstances, and so it was meant to be, as far as God is concerned. He has provided and pointed out the way; what we do is up to us. We **CAN** choose to walk in His Light and humble our hearts to obey His Truth and live in peace and unity in our homes.

D. The Wife Is to Reverence Her Husband.

Finally, the last point needed to complete the Christian wife's Stature of Responsibility in the Home is that the wife is to reverence and respect her husband.

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 5:33).

Reverence consists of love and esteem for God's Word and Will that produces a desire always to please Him. Reverence holds a sacred fear that awakens a caution in the soul, lest it give offense to the LORD's Holy Name.

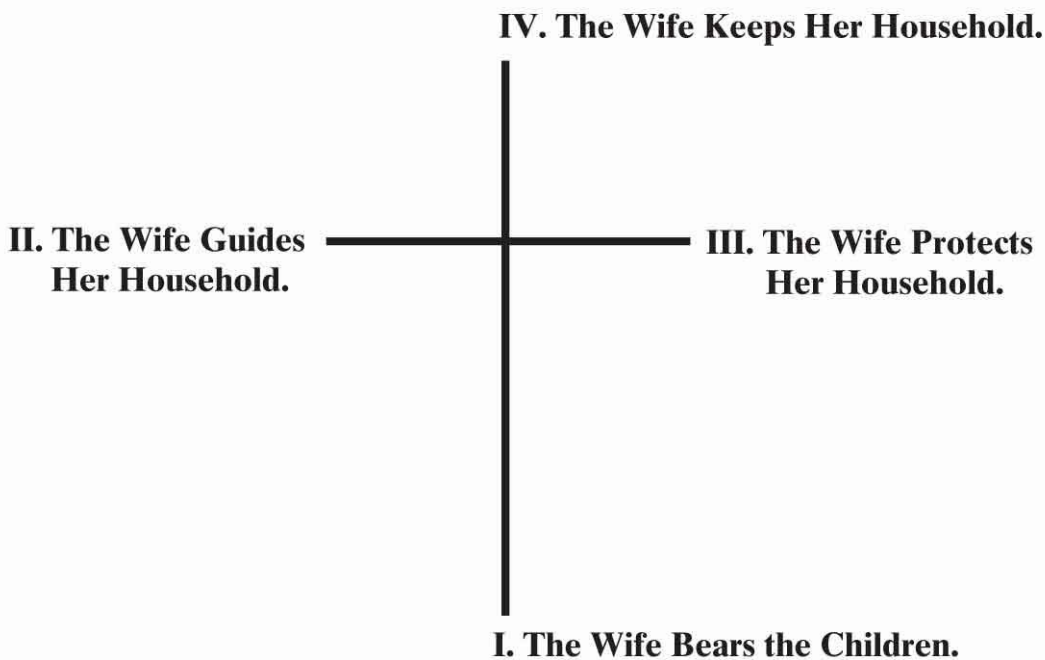
As a wife sets the example by reverencing and respecting her husband, she will become an instructive example to her children; thus, she will teach them to reverence and respect their father. She is to regard her husband with great respect, affection, and honour and remember that their marriage relationship is sacred in the LORD's Eyes. The husband is the head of the home, and he bears the Headship of Christ; therefore, he is to be respected. Such a home will carry the dignity that God intended for a Christian home to have. Such a home will know the love, unity, and peace that can be found only through the LORD Jesus Christ and His eternal glorious Headship. There is no lasting unity of love and peace after the flesh — only hate, strife and warfare. But with the Unity of the Holy Spirit of God, the very Breath, Glory, and Fragrance of Heaven will be manifested in the Christian marriage.

Chapter Three

The Christian Wife's Responsibilities In Establishing And Maintaining The Home

The most natural place for the wife to be is in her home. Adam-female was given to Adam-male to be a helpmeet for him. A home without a wife or mother is an empty, dark, and dreary place to be. The home is the wife and mother's castle and palace where she can fulfill her responsibilities to her family.

God's Word clearly defines the Christian wife's responsibilities in her home: she bears the children; she guides her household; she protects her household; and she keeps it. These points form a Stature of Truth.



I. The Wife Bears the Children.

I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully (1 Timothy 5:14).

The Apostle Paul encouraged the younger women to marry and work in their homes, lest they learn to be idle tattlers and busybodies, who would create mischief among neighbors and sow discord among the brethren. Such action would give occasion among unbelievers to speak reproach against Jesus Christ's righteous, holy, Name.

God's good Purposive Will is that younger women marry and bear children. The privilege of procreation and the

participation in the miracle of birth are great blessings. The Psalmist wrote these words:

Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them [children] they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate
(Psalm 127:5).

In the Psalmist's metaphor, the home is a quiver, while the arrows are the children in the home. A man with his house filled with children is a happy and blessed man indeed.

Some marriages, however, may not be blessed with children. Often, lack of children is not the fault of the husband or the wife; it is simply that God has placed these homes in this particular situation. When this is true, we can be sure that God has a righteous reason for it. There are advantages and disadvantages in either circumstance. Husbands and wives must be willingly submissive to God's divine Will. However, sometimes God uses childless couples to become foster parents to orphan children, so they find parental happiness in this way. In whatever situation God guides and governs, there are advantages and disadvantages. But we must crucify our anger and resentment over the disadvantages in situations and be humbly grateful to the LORD in advantageous situations and give Him all the Glory for all things. Everyone needs to learn to be content with God's divine Will. Truly, homes without children miss one of the most precious treasures of life. But, on the other hand, they also have some distinct advantages. Couples who are not encumbered with the care of little ones have much more time for God's Spirit, prayer, study of His Word, and for service to the LORD, according to His Purposive Will. Many precious missionaries have given up the pleasures of a home and children in order to serve God in preaching to lost souls the Gospel of His Kingdom. Their reward is in gaining spiritual children in place of natural ones. Natural parents have to spend more time caring for their families, so they have less time to dedicate to service for the LORD.

For example, the little mother who is weighed down with household duties has little time for herself. Finding time to pray, to study, and to get alone with God is a constant problem for her as a busy mother. Then, too, she always carries heavy weights, troublesome burdens, and compassionate concern for her children for as long as she lives.

Some children have broken their parents' hearts; nevertheless, the joys of parenthood far outweigh the sufferings that accompany it. Having a little one seems to make a home complete. Yes, a husband and wife are blessed, indeed, when their children's happy laughter and youthful energy fill their home.

While God intends that the younger woman bear children, some refuse to have children and assume the responsibility of motherhood because of their independent selfishness. Likewise, husbands also can be so self-centered that they deny their wives the privilege of motherhood. A marriage union should be fruitful. Motherhood is a precious, priceless privilege and a most important role in a woman's life. She is indeed blessed if she is able to fulfill it!

II. The Wife Guides Her Household.

I will therefore that **the younger women marry**, bear children, **guide the house**,... (I Timothy 5:14).

The Greek word for *guide* is *oy-kod-es-pot-age*, meaning the head of the family, goodman of the house, the householder, the master of the house, ruler of the family, guide of the house. This Scripture teaches us that God has restored, in Christ Jesus, the joint rule and reign of the man and the woman in the home.

The wife and mother is to guide her children and household. She is to conduct and direct them in the morally right way, to influence them with the spiritual Truth that she has learned from Christ Jesus, to instill in them the clear understanding of good character, and to teach them to be honest and honourable and to do good works. Just because the wife and mother is to guide her home does not eradicate or abolish the husband's headship. God gave a wife to be a *helpmeet* to her husband; therefore, she, too, has a responsibility for the portion of Headship from Christ in the home that has been appointed to her, although her headship functions in a different sense than her husband's.

By studying the use of the word *guide*, as Jesus uses it in "guiding" His spiritual family and flock, we can better understand how a wife and mother is to guide her family and flock. Our first Scripture uses the word *master*, which means *guide*.

A. The Wife and Mother Plans the Duties of the Home.

The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. **It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master** [guide], and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? (Matthew

10:24,25).

In these verses in the Book of Matthew, Jesus described Himself as the Master or Guide of His spiritual Household. The Hebrew word for *master* is *rab*, meaning abundant in quantity and quality — in size, age, and rank — to be a master, an elder, and a prince. Christ Jesus had exceedingly abundant Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge of His Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will. Likewise, the wife and mother must plan both spiritually and naturally for her household, according to Christ's Wisdom and Knowledge.

Christ Jesus also possessed excellence and superiority of Character to accomplish His Father's Purposive Will. So the wife and mother must be industrious in overseeing and performing her household duties, according to God's Word. She is the guiding mistress over her home. The LORD Jesus Christ has set the example for the Christian wife and mother. Christ's Disciples are not above their Master, and as the Master has suffered, so the Disciples will suffer. Christ's children in His spiritual family were not to be spared pain in the process of serving in His Household. Neither should the wife and mother spare her children the pain of performing unpleasant duties and chores in her household. All play and no work will teach a child to be lazy and irresponsible. As the Master of His Disciples, Christ has made plans for them. Trials and persecutions do not just happen; they are part of God's Master Plan and Purposive Will so that His spiritual children can accomplish the moral development of their character.

In order for Christ's followers to fellowship His Sufferings and to display His holy Character within them, He has made plans and tests and trials for them. Out of His eternal Wisdom and divine Love, He has planned these painful occasions for His spiritual household in order to work His Strength of Love and Faith in them.

In like manner, it is the woman's task to plan the duties of her home. By the example of her love and faith, she is to train her household to share in its duties. Children should not grow up as unattended weeds, but should be the result of careful planning. Then, they should be cultivated and directed as precious plants as they grow to maturity.

As Christ the Master shared experiences with His Heavenly Father, His Disciples are to share in the same spiritual experiences. This is true in the home also; the mother plans and shares the duties with her household.

In another Scripture, also found in the Book of Matthew, the Greek word for *guide* is translated as *householder*:

For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder [guide], which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard (Matthew 20:1).

The LORD Jesus Christ, the Householder, knew what work had to be done in His Father's Vineyard, so He went out and gathered in the labourers and assigned them their appointed tasks in the Vineyard so that all their unified work would accomplish the Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will concerning His Vineyard. Christ's oversight of His Father's Vineyard is a great illustration of the work of a good guide. In the same manner, the mother is to guide her household duties in the home. Overseeing daily tasks in the home is not the husband's duty. The wife should take charge of planning the duties and the operation of the household. When the husband intrudes into this area, he robs the wife of her rightful place. A wife's home is her castle. As long as she fulfills her duties properly and keeps the household running smoothly, the husband should not intrude into her sphere of responsibility. Of course, if a wife is slovenly and neglectful, a husband must intervene to see that things are done. When the husband and wife know their places and fulfill their responsibilities, love, unity, and harmony reign in the home. On the other hand, if either fails to fulfill his or her duties, hate, disunity, and disharmony reign in the home.

The LORD intends that the home be a natural picture of the marriage relationship of Love, Unity, and Harmony that exists spiritually between Jesus Christ and His Bride. Regretfully, the natural illustration has broken down miserably in many cases. The fault is not with God and His illustration, but with Christian husbands and wives who fail to fulfill their spiritual and natural responsibilities in the home. If Christian families would live according to God's Master Plan and Purposive Will that He has provided in His infinite Word, their homes would be a bit of Heaven on Earth, and they would portray the Love, Unity, and Harmony of Christ with His Bride.

B. The Wife and Mother Should Sow Good Seed in Her Home.

So the servants of the householder [guide] came and said unto him Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? (Matthew 13:27).

The Greek word for *guide* is translated in this Parable as *householder*, which teaches us and enlightens us further about the mother's responsibility to guide her children.

The work of the *householder* (the guide, the master), in this Parable of the Wheat and the Tares, was to sow *good seed*. Likewise, the mother in the home is to be a sower of good seed, both naturally and spiritually, in her children's spiritual education and in their moral development. She is to sow good wheat seed, not bad seed that will bring forth tares.

Often parents engage in competition with one another, each vying for a superior place in their children's affections. In trying to create a special place in her children's hearts, a mother can actually cause a division or a divorcement between the children and their father. When a mother robs her children of their respect for their father, she is doing them a great harm and injustice. She robs them of the love and strength that their father can give them.

Mothers, if you really love your children, teach and encourage them to honour and respect their fathers. This is equally applicable to fathers. Mothers and fathers need to cooperate in preserving and protecting their children's respect for both parents. Many children have grown up with hostile attitudes toward one parent because of the sowing of bad seed in their hearts and minds by the other parent. God's first Commandment that is accompanied by a Promise is as follows:

Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee (Exodus 20:12).

Parents need to help their children obey this Commandment from God. A mother, in particular, has many opportunities to sow good seeds of love, respect, and harmony. How careful she must be about what she sows in her children's hearts because she will reap what she sows. In due season, her children will disrespect her, too, if she sows bad seeds against their father.

One disastrous result of parents' sowing bad seeds of hostility, disrespect, and disharmony is that their children may become separated from the LORD because of the seeds their parents sowed in their hearts when they were children. As children, their parents may have destroyed their confidence in their pastor, in church members, in other Christians' testimonies, and in other churches. Because they have been exposed to their parents' critical, faultfinding judgments of other Christians, they become filled with distrust and doubt toward God and His spiritual family. If we fill our children with seeds of bitterness, we can expect to reap a harvest of bitterness and hardness in them.

Beloved, the LORD wants us to become mature enough in Christ's Stature of Truth to be like Him in Love, Kindness, and Forgiveness in every situation. There are two sides to everything — the good and the bad. Whatever the situation, we should emphasize the good in Christ Jesus in front of the little ones who have been entrusted to our care.

Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. **Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be** (James 3:9,10).

A mother needs to realize the golden opportunity she has to sow good seeds of blessing out of her mouth into her children's hearts while they are still in her care. Because the mother spends more time with them, she has the best opportunity to sow, rather than the father. However, this does not relieve the father of his responsibility to wait upon God as the spiritual head of his house. Together, the husband and wife should work in love and harmony to sow good seeds in their children's hearts and to train them to walk in the way of the LORD Jesus Christ in their moral development.

Hear another parable: **There was a certain householder** [guide], **which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about**, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: (Matthew 21:33).

The work of the *householder* or guide, in this verse, presents the same Spiritual Principle as in the former Parable. The LORD, as the *Householder*, planted a vineyard, hedged it about, digged a winepress, and built a tower in it. He left it in the care of husbandmen and went into a far country. The LORD put plants of life in His Vineyard; He provided a winepress to squeeze out the life of the grapes; He provided a defensive hedge to keep out destructive intruders; and He built a watchtower to prevent invaders from stealing the precious life from the Vineyard. He left *husbandmen* (guides) to oversee His Vineyard. Likewise the LORD desires to plant precious plants of spirits and souls in a husband and wife's family.

As a Husbandman, the LORD has digged, as it were, a place in man's soul for the sense of conscience to abide as a winepress for the purpose of separating the good, living juice of the grape of Truth from the evil, worthless skins of the grape. The LORD has built an eye of faith in man's spirit to be a strong watchtower against the invader of doubt that destroys the heart's confidence in God's Word.

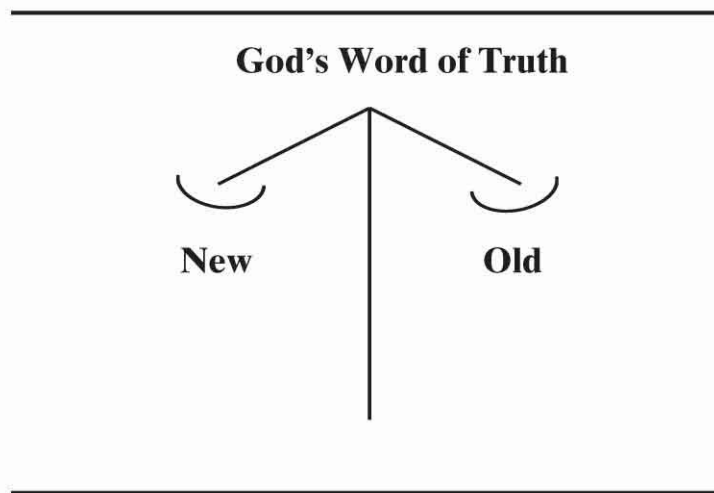
God has let out His Vineyard of souls and spirits to parents in the form of children. It is the joint responsibility of parents to educate these plants, called children, in their spiritual education and moral development.

Thus, mothers have a precious ministry of responsibility and opportunity bestowed upon them! These little *seedling* plants are entrusted to her care. She must guide, govern, direct, nourish, educate, cultivate, and train these precious little plants in the Stature of the LORD Jesus Christ. Her home is her vineyard; she is the householder and husbandman over it.

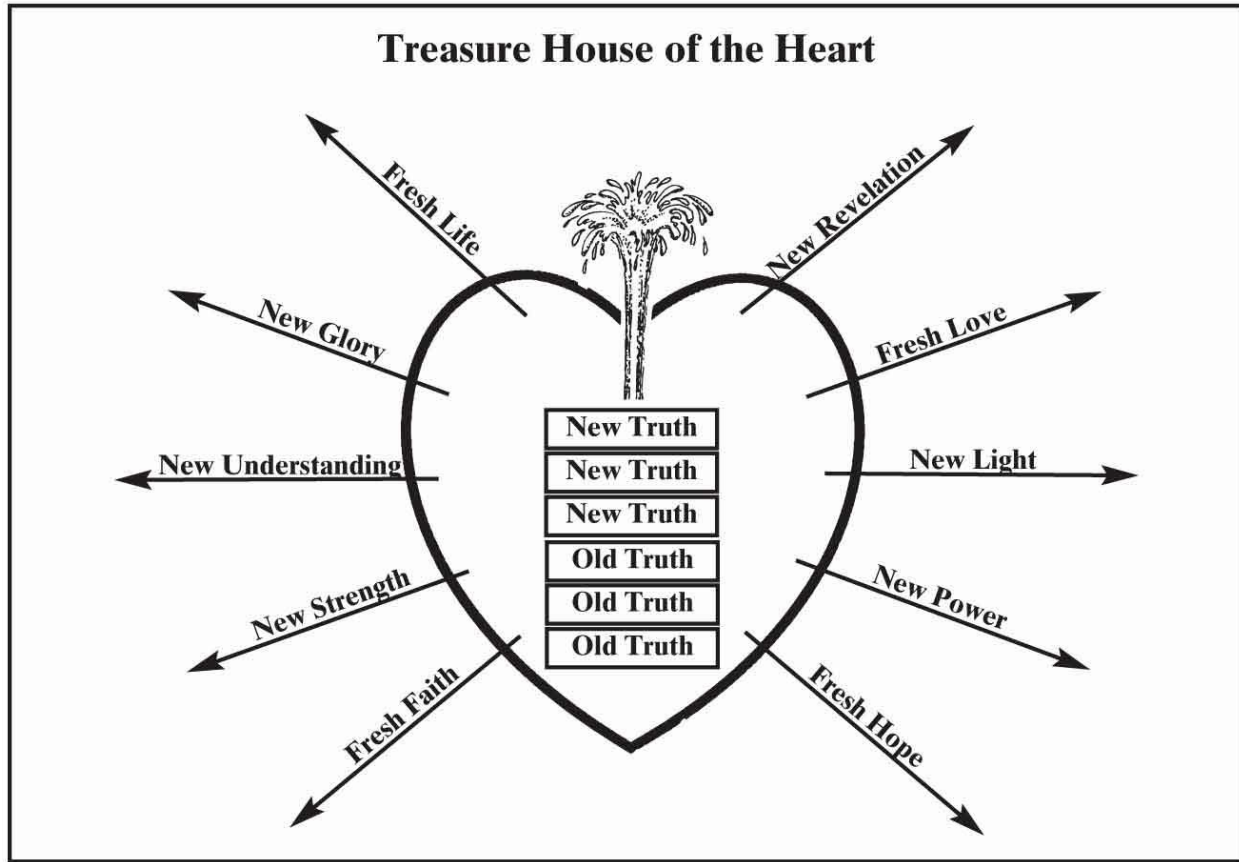
C. The Wife and Mother Must Possess both New and Old Things for Her Family.

Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven, is like unto a man that is **an householder** [guide], **which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old** (Matthew 13:52).

Those who have studied God's Word and who have been instructed in its meaning by the blessed Holy Ghost will have an humble heart and a treasure house full of new and old Truths that have been stored there.



The heart that has waited honestly and sincerely before the LORD will receive new, fresh, revealed Light of God's Word and its true moral meaning that is clothed with fresh, new Glory, Power, and quickening Life of the Holy Ghost. Thus, today's Truth and Glory will rest upon the old, precious Truth of yesterday and give it new Life, Light, and meaning.



The reception of new Light, Life, and Glory from God's Word in the heart, today, regenerates, revives, and renews the old Truths of yesterday and reinforces their precious reality all over again so that the heart's treasure house continually overflows with the LORD's unparalleled Love and unspeakable Joy. As a result, the heart is always able to share new and old exciting things from God's Word of Truth.

If we come into God's House to learn His Word of Truth, and if nothing new were ever presented to us for our spiritual education and moral development, we would leave with no new faith and hope for our new, painful situations of life. Suppose all the worship services were just the same, over and over, year after year, with no new Truth being taught; then, as we traveled around the same old mountain of Truth, how dead and boring our church experience would become. We would not come to church with a real sense of happy anticipation and excitement.

Old things are precious and needful. We can retain in our cabinet of memories their theoretical Truths, but we need a fresh, new glory and anointing upon them so that they can experientially live in our hearts all over again. We need continued *newness* and freshness to feel the *former* joy and thrill of the old Truths as we walk on with the LORD day by day. As we grow spiritually, the LORD continually opens up new things for us out of His eternal Treasury of Truth, which is His Storehouse.

A mother has a similar responsibility to her family to show both new and old Truth out of the treasury of her humble heart. She needs new and old Wisdom and Knowledge from Jesus Christ in order to guide her household. Children grow so weary of having the same old things said to them over and over. Naturally, some things must necessarily be repeated in order for a child to learn and to have them engraved in his heart. But a mother also needs to bring forth new Wisdom and Knowledge from her storehouse so that the old Truths will not become boring. She needs Christ's Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge in order to enlighten and to guide her children through the painful and pleasurable complexities of life.

As a mother experiences continued spiritual growth in her own spiritual education and moral development, she is able to bring forth new Wisdom and Knowledge for her children. As she battles her own carnal flesh and goes through her own spiritual struggles to gain new Treasures of Truth, she gains new realms of Christ's Compassion, Patience, Grace, and Understanding toward her children and their battles. If she continually plays the same old tapes

of reproof and rebuke and never brings forth new Wisdom and Knowledge, her children will grow weary of her same old words. She needs to learn *new* things in order to build *added* Stature in Christ Jesus. In this way, she will gain new authority and respect in her home. She can use the same old things, but they will appear as new things under the new glory and power that God gives her when she goes to Him for daily Wisdom.

A Christian mother always needs a fresh supply of new Patience, Love, Mercy, and Wisdom as she deals with her children. She is a guide, a householder, who must bring forth new and old things out of her treasury with which she can bless her household.

D. The Wife and Mother Must Constantly Watch Her Home.

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if **the goodman** [guide] **of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched**, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up (Matthew 24:42,43).

The Greek word for *goodman* in this verse is the same word for *guide* that God commanded the younger wives to be in ministering to their children.

The instructive Wisdom in these verses tell about being ready for the LORD's Second Coming, which will come as a thief in the night. The night is divided into four watches. If the *goodman* of the house faithfully watches his home in all four watches, it will be impossible for the thief to break in and steal the family treasures. Likewise, if a mother faithfully watches her children, it will be impossible for a Luciferic thief to break in and steal her children's spirits and souls.

A mother is to be the watcher in the home. She must always be observant and attentive in order to govern, guide, and guard her home, according to God's good Purposive Will. This does not, however, replace the father's responsibility to govern, guide, and guard the home. God has given the Christian wife and mother a keen sense of discernment and intuition which assists her in this duty of being the *watchful goodman* of the home. Mothers especially need to be on the alert for and constantly guard against some things. God has placed the mother in the home to keep her watchful *eagle eye* upon developing situations that are indications of the thief trying to break through to steal her children's souls. She must watch for some specific things.

1. She Must Watch for the Thief.

The *householder* or *mother* must watch for the thief that waits to break through and steal her's and her family's treasures of spiritual things. The Devil is a thief and robber who seeks to rob us of all the things of God. He tries to rob us of our time so that we will not spend time in the Word and in prayer. He knows he cannot govern our spirit and soul as long as we are strong in God's Word and alive in His Spirit. But if the enemy is able to steal our time with the LORD, it will not be long before our heart will be filled with dissatisfaction, murmuring, complaining, and criticism because all satisfaction, joy, rejoicing, and praise come from the LORD and His Holy Word. A sad, sorrowful attitude is a sure witness that we have lost our time in God's Word and with His Spirit in prayer.

Next, the Devil steals away our reason and understanding when we have been unfaithful to watch in our night season. With our treasures of sound reason and good understanding gone, we fail to understand why we are in a low, barren spiritual place. Blind to our own spiritual need, we soon place our eyes upon someone else's spiritual problem, while we utterly neglect our own. With our treasures of sound reason and good understanding gone, we are easily deceived into concerning ourselves with others' faults instead of recognizing our own failures and dealing with them.

God has ordained the mother to be the watcher in the home. She must keep her eyes open to detect the thief that would steal her treasures of sound reason and good understanding in her own heart and in her children's hearts. A mother is to watch herself and her family in order to discern quickly when the Devil is creeping in to rob them spiritually. Often a mother who has failed to be an alert watcher awakens only after it is too late. Retrieving a child after he has fallen into the Devil's controlling clutches and after his spirit and soul have lost out with God is very much more difficult. The time to be faithful and watch is EVERY DAY AND NIGHT!

If the mother remains attentively alert, she will be quick to detect the wrong direction in which her children are going. The time to deal with a wrong direction is in the very beginning. A mother's duty is to sit down and talk over any evident problems with her children and bring forth the new and old things from the treasury of her heart and share her experiential Knowledge and sound Wisdom with them. Mothers cannot watch *too* much!

If children understand why their parents faithfully watch them, and if they realize it is because their parents truly

love and care for them, they will not resent their supervision. They must grasp the Truth that God has commanded parents to do this. Let us remember that our children do not lose out with God all at one time; neither do teen-agers become juvenile delinquents overnight. The process gradually occurs because of parents' inattention and neglect of their responsibility to *watch*. If mothers are on the watch, they can catch the thief in the beginning and prevent his robbing their children of their desire to serve God and to do the right thing.

2. She Must Watch for Opportunities to Show Hospitality.

The Christian mother must watch for the opportunity to be hospitable toward the LORD, just as was the *goodman* of the house who guided Jesus and His Disciples to the guest chamber to eat the last Passover together before His crucifixion.

And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover? And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him. And wheresoever he shall go in, **say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?** (Mark 14:12-14).

The time for Jesus to eat the Passover with His Disciples was at hand; therefore, He needed the hospitality of a goodman in his home. Jesus told two of His Disciples to follow the man bearing a pitcher of water. Wherever the man turned in, the Disciples were to speak to the goodman of that house and ask if they could be his guests and stay in his guest chamber.

From the question that was asked, it seems that the goodman must have known that the LORD was going to come to his house. The goodman of the house guided his Master and His Disciples to his guestchamber. The goodman, the master of his house, was ready and willing to give his LORD hospitality in his home.

Undeniably, the wife's responsibility is to assist her husband in the ministry of hospitality, just as Sarah assisted Abraham in his ministry of hospitality when his Heavenly Visitors came to call. Abraham personally selected the young, tender, good calf from his herd, and Sarah kneaded the bread and baked it on the hearth. The wife furnishes the guest room, makes plans for the guest's comfort, and prepares whatever food is needed. Parental hospitality in the home is an instructive example to the children of how to share their possessions with others. A child that has been reared in a hospitable home will have learned the joy and fellowship in dividing and sharing their possessions with others. Good hospitality sanctifies the heart from selfishness and educates the soul in social skills and communication with others.

God wants us to be hospitable. God's Word exhorts us to use hospitality one to another (Hebrews 13:2). We are to be a lover of hospitality (Titus 1:8). And we are to be given to hospitality (Romans 12:13). Hospitality helps us to put our spiritual education into practice in our moral development.

3. She Watches so that She Can Shut the Door.

When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: (Luke 13:25).

God declares in His Word that, at the appointed time, the LORD Jesus Christ will rise up and shut the door to His Father's Heavenly Kingdom so that no unprepared ones can enter. Jesus will shut the door to His Father's House against all unfit intruders. Likewise, a good mother will rise up and shut the door of her home to all unfit ones who would try to enter in to defile her children.

The LORD's example in rising up and shutting the door to unfit, unwanted guests reveals another new ray of Light concerning the duties and responsibilities of a good householder. When the LORD Jesus Christ comes again, He shall shut the door, and many shall find themselves shut out from that grand and glorious occasion. His wife, because she is a helpmeet to her Husband, will assist Him in shutting the door.

There are many evil, unfit things in the world against which we need to shut the doors of our heart and will. The mother's place is to assist the father in this sphere of responsibility. Many Christian homes would be spared grievous heartaches if they would shut their doors against the worldly things that later prove to be a lasting snare against their hearts and wills. The master of the house shuts the door, but both parents need to cooperate closely in this ministry so that the sanctity of their home will remain undisturbed and intact.

4. She Watches for the Poor, Maimed, Halt, and Blind.

So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then **the master of the house being angry said to his servant**, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and **bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind** (Luke 14:21).

In Jesus' Parable of the Great Supper, He showed how a certain man made a great supper and bade many people to come to it. He sent His servant to bid them to come, but they all made excuses. The first had bought a piece of ground, so he pleaded to be excused so that he could grow food and pay tithes and firstfruits, as it were. He put his good works above his obedience to God's Word. The second had bought five yoke of oxen, so he needed to feed and care for them; thus, he pleaded to be excused so that he could give his oxen for sacrifices in God's Sanctuary, as it were. He also put his good works above obedience to God's Word. The third had married a wife, so he pleaded to be excused so that he could go and be with his wife on the supposed ground of Deuteronomy, chapter twenty-four, verse twenty-five, which only excused him from going to *war* if he had a new wife. This man put his matrimonial pleasure before his obedience to God's Word, yet he tried to make selfish use of God's Word by falsely interpreting it to excuse himself. Disappointed, but not defeated in his purpose, the certain man sent his servant to invite the *poor, maimed, halt, and blind* to be partakers of his hospitality, after he had shut the door on his formerly invited, but unappreciative, ungrateful *guests*.

This Parable teaches us how hospitable God is. He must and will have guests at His Table. When the rich of this world refuse the LORD's hospitality, we must invite the poor, maimed, halt, blind, the lowly and meek, and the poor in this world's goods so that our LORD's Table will be full of friends, guests, relatives, Bridesmaids, the Best Man, and His Bride, at the Marriage Supper of the Bridegroom, the Lamb, and the Bride. This, then, is the LORD's first Supper, His Blessing Supper.

God's Word reveals the LORD's two Great Suppers that He will prepare: the blessed Marriage Supper of the Lamb and the Judgment Supper, when the flesh of the wicked will be eaten by all the fowls of the air. The first is the joyful Marriage Supper of the Lamb, which is described in Revelation chapter nineteen, verses seven through nine. The second is God's Judgment Supper, which is revealed in Revelation, chapter nineteen, verses seventeen through twenty-one. This Judgment Supper is called "the supper of the great God." It will be prepared by the LORD Jesus Christ through His judgmental Acts that He will wreak on the flesh of all the Antichrist's army and all the armies of the kings of the Earth who will gather together to make war against Christ and His Bridal Armies. Christ shall slay all His obstinate enemies with His sharp, eternal Sword out of His Mouth; then, He will spread their flesh as a great feast before all the fowls of the air, and they shall devour it all.

At Jesus Christ's First Coming to Earth, sinful, proud men rebelled against Him and refused His Father's invitation to the Marriage Supper of His Lamb. At that time, many rejected His invitation of Mercy and Grace. The Householder, becoming angry because his invitations were spurned, commanded his servants to bring in the poor, the maimed, the halt, and the blind to replace those proud rebels. The proud refused their LORD's invitation, but the poor, humble ones accepted His merciful, glorious invitation to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. However, at Jesus Christ's Second Coming, He will make a supper for the fowls of the air, not for proud men.

Jesus Christ's Ministry in preparing two Great Suppers for the poor humble hearts who receive His invitation to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and for the poor, humble fowls of Heaven presents an instructive example of the Christian wife and mother's ministry of hospitality in the home.

Although the master of the house extends the invitation, the wife and mother works to prepare for the feast. If a Christian husband and wife are united spiritually, they will take delight in fulfilling the Spiritual Principle of extending hospitality, as revealed in the Parable in Luke. What a joyous privilege it is to invite neglected, lonely, destitute, needy ones into our home. Blessed, indeed, is the home in which this type of hospitality is practiced.

By being gracious to lonely, poor strangers in this present world, a Christian husband and wife show that they are citizens of the LORD's Kingdom. Therefore, their hearts will be filled with great compassion for the poor and lonely of this world. Their great magnetic, spiritual love of Christ will draw lonely, cold souls to the warmth of their hospitable embrace in their home.

The loving cheerfulness of hospitable hosts and the grateful gladness of guests make a true feast.

III. The Wife and Mother Protects Her Household.

Another way the wife and mother ministers in the home is by protecting it. The wife and mother needs to *protect* her household from harm and danger. She needs to shield her family from injury and loss. Through her domestic

industry, she can guard her household against difficult economical conditions by wisely planning for them. She needs to be conservative in her spending and save the family possessions in anticipation of future setbacks.

A Christian husband and wife need to protect one another's tranquility and peace by Christlike behavior that does not produce a tempest in his or her soul. For instance, a wife can provoke her husband to jealousy and deliberately create misunderstanding, or she can conduct herself so that her actions and intentions are quite clear to her husband. She will not create a dark storm that will destroy his emotional security. In this way, she will protect her spiritual Christian relationship with her husband. A woman may think, in her diseased perception of reality, that she proves a man's love when she provokes his jealousy. But, in reality, she sows seeds of distrust in his heart and makes herself vulnerable to thoughts of discontent that could lead to unfaithfulness to her LORD and to her husband. A Christian wife and husband have a responsibility to make it plain by their actions that they love one another and have no desire to attract anyone else.

The Apostle Paul exhorted the younger women to marry, bear children, guide the house, and give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. As true Christians, we must not give Christ's adversaries cause to speak reproachfully against Him because of our unChristlike conduct. Christian women need to consider the eternal shame and disgrace that can be brought to Christ's Name for one small moment of prideful self-exaltation or unrestrained behavior. Christian Women can bring reproach upon themselves, their husbands, and their families in many different ways. An angry wife may speak accusingly about her husband to others and, then, when the breach is mended, live to regret what she said because she destroyed his testimony with others. She may forgive and forget, but others may not forgive nor forget. When a wife prefers to seek pity and justification for her anger toward her husband, she does not fulfill her responsibility of protection toward him as she should.

Another way a Christian woman can bring reproach upon her husband and family is by being unwilling to work or exert herself when it comes to her housekeeping. The wife and mother who is slothful, slack, and sluggish in keeping her home clean, orderly, and well disciplined is a reproach to Christ, His people, and His adversaries. The LORD will never bless laziness and carelessness because He has commanded man to work six days.

Other Christian wives may spend their time gossiping and repeating evil reports that neither edify themselves or others. This behavior develops into the habit of criticizing everyone; hence, it defiles and destroys their own home instead of protecting it. As a result, they become a reproach to God, their husbands, children, church, and community.

One of the LORD's purposes in placing the woman in the home is to protect and to bless it. Remember, all wives and mothers must give an account before Christ at His Judgment Seat for the way in which they have conducted themselves in their homes, not only in their relationship with their husbands, but for the example they have been to their children, for the kind of housekeeper they have been, and for how they have guided and protected their homes.

IV. The Wife and Mother Keeps Her Home.

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 2:3-5).

The aged women in the early Christian Church were commanded to instruct and to warn the younger wives and mothers to be keepers of their own homes. They were to practice behaviour as becometh holiness unto the LORD. Jesus Christ's inward Holiness is always for the outward influences of His Holiness in decency, dress, looks, speech, and gesture. The LORD's Purposive Will is that the Christian woman, by practicing the inward Principle of Christ's Holiness, be always influencing and ordering her outward conduct at all times. We must do all things for the LORD and for His Glory.

Not only is the woman to be a guide and a protector in her home, she is also to be a keeper at home. The Greek word for *keeper* is *oy-koo-ros*, which means a stayer at home, domestically inclined, a good homemaker, a good housekeeper. Women are to tend to the needs of their own homes. This is God's Perfect Purposive Will for Christian wives and mothers.

In spite of the change in our society, God intends that a wife's and mother's primary role be played at home, as she tends to her family's needs. A good *keeper at home* is the Christian wife and mother who shows *diligence at home*.

The performance of a woman's duties in the home is often belittled or referred to in a patronizing manner as merely "being a housewife." But it is serious and tremendously important to be a good housewife. The housewife

runs the home and takes care of domestic affairs. She not only runs her own household, but assists and helps her husband in his business matters as well. Someone has said, "As the home goes, so goes the nation." God's Purposive Will is for a woman to remain at home as a homemaker if possible. God does not change. Today, as in every age, a woman is to be a *keeper of the home*.

However, the trend of our modern society is quite contrary since many husbands and fathers flee their responsibilities and leave the wives and mothers to pick up most of the burden. For this reason, millions of women are forced to work outside the home. In some cases, due to crises in the home, a woman must work and help share the financial burden of the family. For instance, an invalid husband may be the reason a wife must contribute to the family's earnings. But the most important employment for the wife and mother, the one that God prefers, is that of being an exemplary wife and mother in the home.

Chapter Four

The Christian Woman And Her Dress

Dress has a moral effect upon the conduct of mankind. A person's way of dressing governs the impression he or she makes on the world. For example, if a woman's shoes are dirty, her dress soiled, her hair unkempt, and her general appearance one of negligence, others will usually not find her a fit person to address. A becoming decency of dress on the exterior may not be necessary to please ourselves, but it is most necessary in order for us to be truly acceptable to others. Remember, a cut and polished diamond will lose some of its carat weight, but its intrinsic worth will be enhanced, and its brilliance will be greatly increased.

God increases the beauty and design of the shell that clothes the kernel or embryo of life inside. Our body is the shell of the soul; therefore, we need to dress modestly and neatly for Christ's sake. Jesus Christ did not call the woman to dress in gaudy, sensual attire. Simple, plain, and modest attire permits the beauty of Christ to shine through all the brighter. Christ desires that a woman *dress* according to His Moral Principles of Righteousness, which consist of moral decency, quiet simplicity, and exquisite neatness. For their pride's sake, some foolish women spend inordinate amounts on their clothes and even sacrifice the household budget, thus curtailing the family's pleasures and jeopardizing the family's comfort, just to make a momentary, sensational outward impression on others. This extravagant indulgence drains the family refrigerator dry and sweeps the family's pantry clean. God's Word teaches us clearly concerning His Master Plan and Purposive Will about the woman's dress.

The Apostles took a firm stand on the matter of a Christian woman's dress, although, today, many preachers and pastors prefer to bypass the subject altogether because their wives and the women in their congregations dress worldly. Regardless of the modern, careless attitudes about the way a woman should dress, a Christian woman's godly appearance is very important to the LORD because she has a Christian testimony to maintain. Declaring scriptural, godly standards of dress that have not gone out of eternal style is as pertinent today as it was in the early church. God's rule for holiness and godliness in a woman's appearance is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

God's Word provides rules for dress, both inwardly and outwardly. The Bible states God's specific commands and gives us His inward rule and outward rule for godly dressing. Many problems have arisen in Christian circles because of believers' inconsistency in observing both God's rules for the inner dress of the soul and spirit and the outer dress of the body. Some Christians emphasize only the body's outward appearance and fail to see the need of the inner soul and spirit. Then, again, some only emphasize the dress of the inner soul and spirit and utterly neglect the need to establish the godly standard of outward dress for the Christian woman. Obedience to God's Holy Word will cause us to observe both rules.

I. The Rule Pertaining to the Woman's Outward Dress Was Established in the Early Church.

In like manner also, that **women adorn themselves in modest apparel**, with shamedfacedness and sobriety; **not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array**; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works (I Timothy 2:9,10).

These Scriptures establish the godly standard for a Christian woman's dress. The Apostle was very clear in stating what manner of dress would be pleasing to the LORD. Let us examine what he said, point by point.

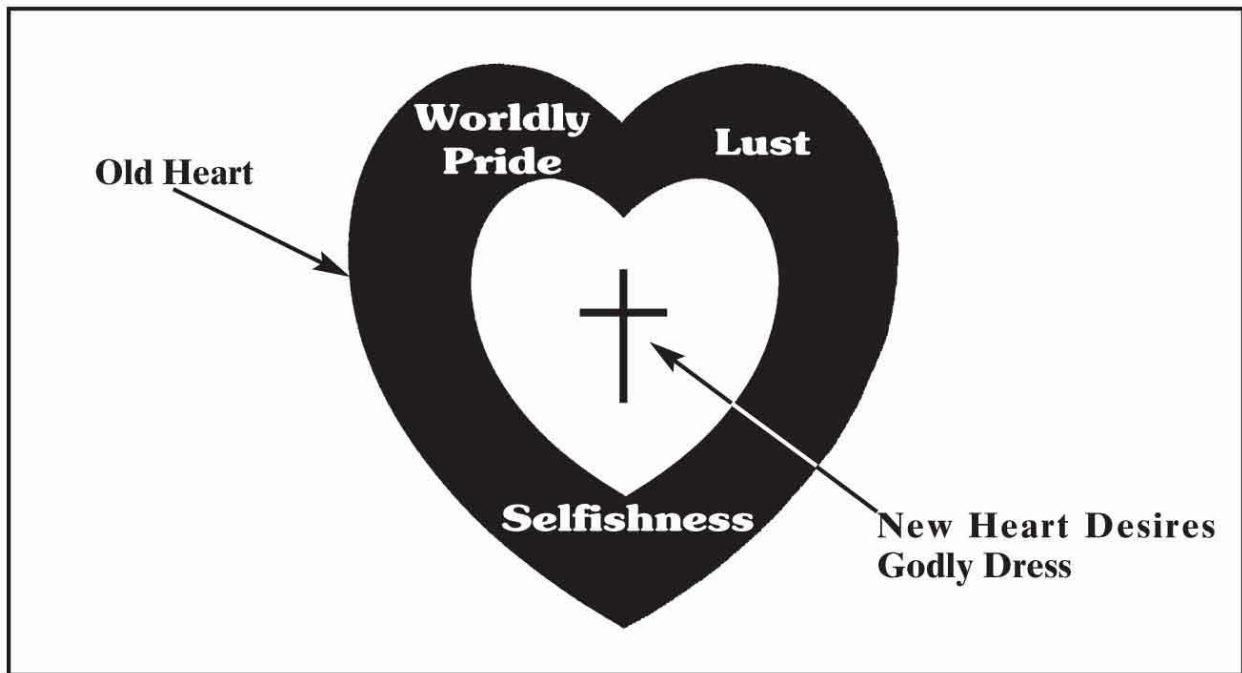
A. A Christian Woman Is to Wear Modest Apparel.

The Greek word for *modest* is *kos-mee-kos*, which means orderly, decorous, dignified, or good behavior. A Christian woman's outward, modest dress displays her inner dress of humility and purity that clothes her spirit and soul. She does not display her body in a provocative way that would cause sensual, lustful thoughts in men. The

world looks primarily at a person's outward appearance; therefore, we should care about the kind of impression we make for the LORD by being extremely neat, scrupulously clean, and by using good taste in our dress. God's Word calls our bodies the "temple of the Holy Ghost."

What? **know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost** which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? (I Corinthians 6:19).

The believer in Christ is joined to Christ and is one Spirit with Him. Jesus Christ has consecrated the believer's body, soul, and spirit and set them apart for His use and possession. The believer's body is the LORD's temple; it is inhabited by His Holy Spirit. Thus, the LORD wants the believer's body to be sacred and holy for Him. In the beginning, God created man's body for Himself. He is its Owner and Master because it is His handiwork. However, man sold his body to sin, so God sent His only Begotten Son to buy back man's body, soul, and spirit with the price of His own precious Blood! We are not our own, and we have no right to dress the LORD's purchased bodies according to our own carnal desire for prideful, lustful purposes. God is greatly concerned about our outward appearance because it should visibly display our inward condition. Whether we acknowledge it or not, our outward dress *does* reveal whether we are dressing according to the wishes of our old heart, after Adam the First, or according to the constraints of our New Heart in Christ Jesus that desires to please Him.



B. In Her Manner of Dress, the Christian Woman Is to Be Separated from the World.

Ungodly fashion designers dictate the mode and manner of dress that women today follow. However, as Christian women, we do not have to allow them to control what we buy and how we dress. It is time for sincere Christian women to question whether they are following the dictates of the ungodly world of fashion or God's eternal fashion. Christian women are not to be conformed to this world by following its ungodly, immodest dress in any manner! God has set standards of decency, and He has not changed His godly, eternal standard. God Himself covered Adam's and Eve's nakedness after they had sinned and had lost their clothing of Glory Light for their bodies that had come from God, yet man has become so perverted in his thinking that he says it is prudish to feel that his nakedness is an object of shame.

Little by little, many of Adam-male and Adam-female's posterity have uncovered themselves until they have no godly standards of decency at all.

How easily Christians compromise with the world and the Devil. They excuse their disobedience to God's Word by saying that they are conforming to worldly society so that they can win sinners for the LORD. What unparalleled

deception of a diseased perception of reality! Our clothes do not draw souls to Jesus Christ. It is God the Father's Spirit and Word that draw lost souls to His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. It is time to realize that conforming to worldly fashion has gone too far when a Christian woman's dress exposes almost all of her anatomy. There is no justifiable excuse before God for a Christian woman to dress indecently. Although a Christian woman's motive may be to conform to the dictates of today's society, the results are the same. She displeases the Heavenly Father; she grieves the Holy Ghost; and she exposes herself, making her body an object of lustful attraction to gain the wanton attentions of ungodly men. Dressing to please God and His Holy Spirit should be the Christian woman's motive!

A Christian woman's thinking on this matter should be settled once and for all when she understands how God clothed Adam's and Eve's naked bodies.

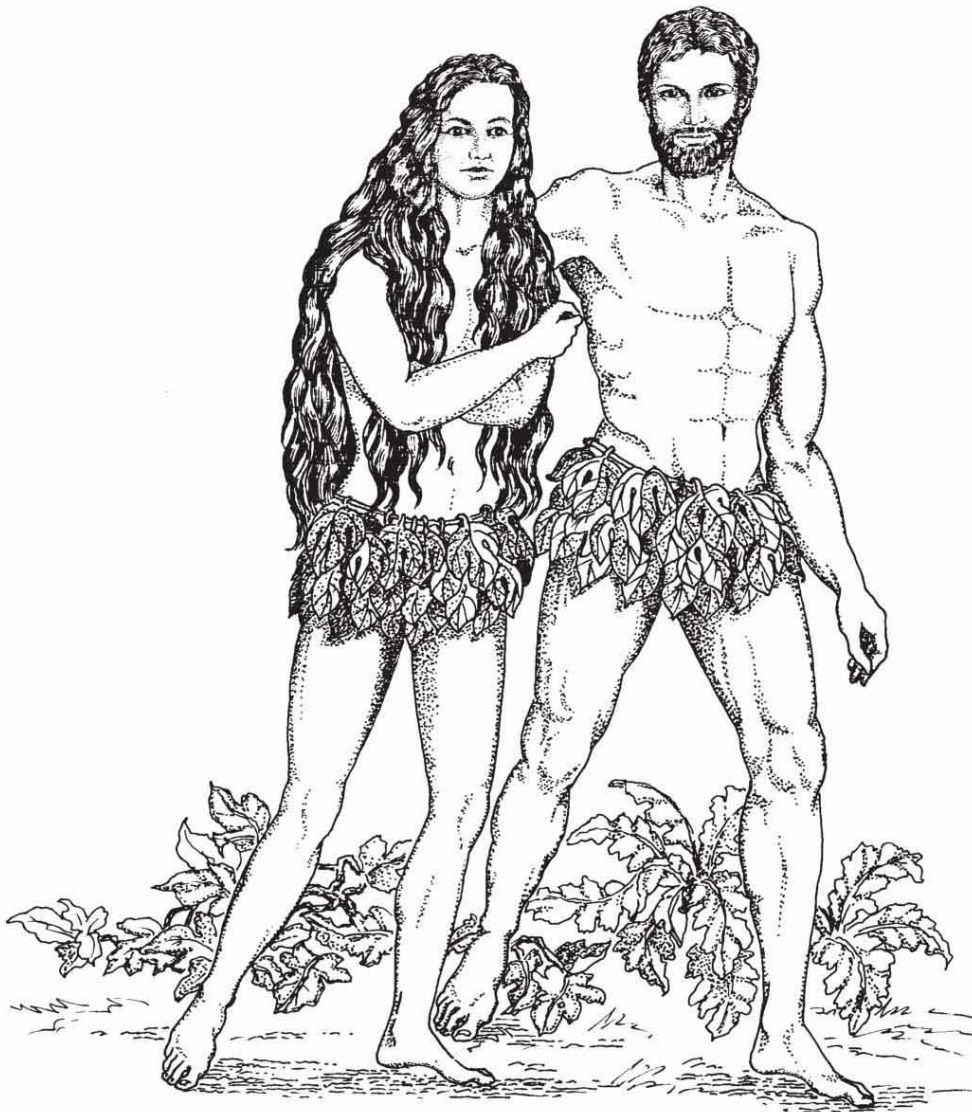
And the eyes of them both were opened, and **they knew that they were naked**; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons (Genesis 3:7).

Unto Adam also and to his wife did **the LORD God** make coats of skins, and **clothed them** (Genesis 3:21).



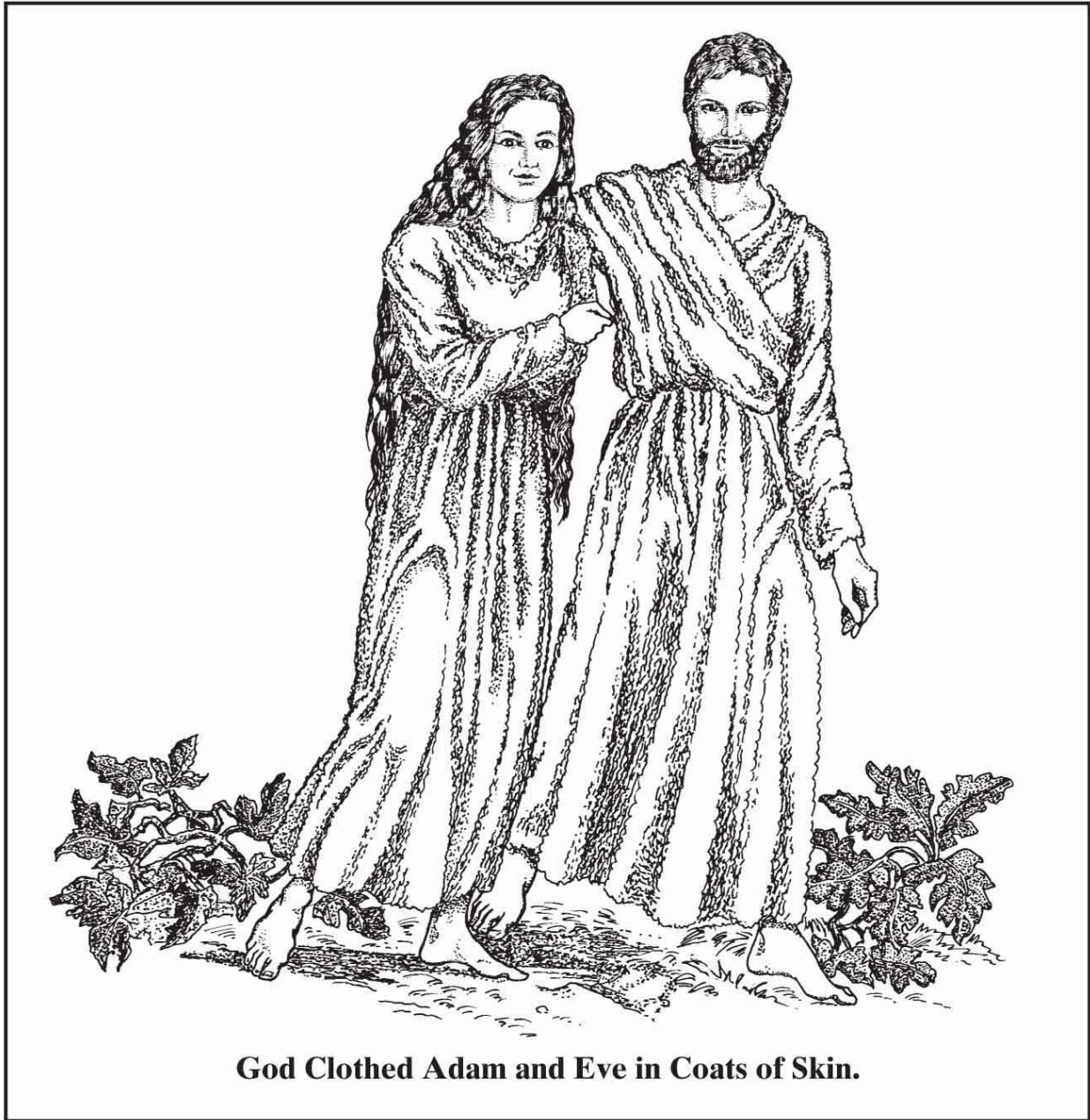
In the Beginning, God Clothed Adam-Male and Female in His Glory Light.

Adam-male's and Adam-female's mortal eyes were opened after they had sinned by disobeying God and after He had removed His *kaw-bode* Glory covering or clothing from them. They saw they were *naked*, and in their great shame, they tried in vain to cover their nakedness by sewing fig leaves together to make aprons.



Adam and Eve Clothed Themselves with Fig Leaves.

Adam and Eve's first sinful enlightened recognition was that they were naked. Their consciousness of being naked was the consciousness that something was visible that should not be visible. They were ashamed! In their sinful ignorance and evil works of darkness, they tried to sew fig leaves into aprons in order to cover their nakedness. They were ashamed for God and for one another to see their nakedness. So in spite of their disobedience, God, in His manifold Mercies and great Grace, made them garments that fully covered their naked bodies.



God Clothed Adam and Eve in Coats of Skin.

The Hebrew word for *coat* is *keth-o-neth*, which means to cover, a coat, garment, robe. To cover means to clothe; the word refers to the shoulder as being the place from which a garment hangs. Cover also carries the idea of a side piece or lateral projection or arm. So the Bible gives us a clear picture of how Adam's and Eve's garments covered them up and down from the shoulder to their feet, even to having sleeves to cover their arms.

In a vain effort, Adam and Eve tried to clothe *themselves* with aprons of stolen fig leaves. But when God discovered their nakedness, He made them garments of animal skins that covered them from their shoulders to their feet and from their shoulders to their hands.

The Scripture says that God *clothed* them. Examination of the word *clothed* shows that it means to *wrap around*, to put on a garment or clothe oneself in apparel. God clothed Adam and Eve up and down and around. He did not hang a loin-cloth about Adam's waist, leaving his nakedness exposed, as artists so often portray him. God covered Adam and Eve completely.

We can know this, relatively speaking, because God teaches us by Principles, even under the Old Testament types and shadows. Adam's and Eve's outer clothing for their bodies was a type and shadow of God's gift of Christ's

redemptive Robe of Righteousness with which God covers believers' spiritual nakedness. The High Priest's robe in the Old Testament reached down from his neck to his feet and covered him with a robe of pure White Linen, which also typified God's Robe of Righteousness in Christ Jesus.

God intends for our nakedness to be clothed, both in the natural realm and in the spiritual realm. His Mercy covers our sin and shame completely when we allow Him to dress or clothe us in His redemptive Robe of Righteousness. He would not be a merciful and gracious God if He did not clothe our nakedness completely.

God also will clothe overcomers with eternal Garments of Glory at the Rapture, when the dead in Christ will be resurrected and the saints that are *alive* and *remain* will be translated, for all will be caught up to be with the LORD. John described three types of eternal Robes of Glory in the Book of Revelation: White Robes, White Raiment, and White Linen. Each one represents a different degree of Christ's resurrected Glory that believers will have attained by gift while on Earth, through Salvation and by spiritual growth in the Spiritual Stature of the Crucified Christ and the Resurrected Christ. Believers' Robes of Glory will determine their eternal place of abode: the New Heaven, the New Earth, or the New City!

We are not to be conformed to this ungodly world of naked fashion, nor, on the other hand, are we to condone an untidy, unkempt, and unclean appearance. Our entire person should give the appearance of order, dignity, simplicity, and modesty. Simplicity is good taste. But more importantly, simplicity and modesty are God's commandment.

1. A Christian Woman's Hair Should Be Modestly Styled and not Braided.

The word *broided* means to plait, to twine, to braid. The Apostle Paul warned against the lavish hair styles of his day that called attention to the woman. The style was for women to fashion large fanlike plaits to adorn their heads. Braided hair implies the opposite from simplicity. "Eve" has always found a way to dress herself up to attract "Adam" and to please herself instead of pleasing her LORD.

According to God's Word, the LORD is pleased with long hair.* The Bride in the Song of Solomon, a picture of Christ's Bride, had long flowing locks that gave the appearance of the beautiful long hair of goats as they lay on the hillside. In his first letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul instructed women concerning the glory of their long hair and how their long hair was to be their covering.

But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering (I Corinthians 11:15).

For a woman to be shaven or shorn is a shame, for her hair is her covering and her glory.

2. A Christian Woman's Hair Should not Be Plaited with Gold.

The Apostle Paul specifically mentioned gold in First Timothy, chapter two, verse nine. Fashionable women of Paul's day had a custom of plaiting gold into ornate braids of hair. Their hair represented quite a work of art, as do some modern creations. All these things are vanity and make a display to satisfy the pride of the human heart and to create lustful attention from the opposite sex.

Women have difficulty in worshipping the LORD and yielding to His Spirit if their expensive hairstyles and fashionable clothing are too fancy. Overdressing prevents a woman from worshipping the LORD according to His Purposive Will, which the LORD reveals in His Word. If a woman is arrogantly proud because of her stylish dress or if she wears her skirts too short or too tight, such constraints will cause her to remain stiff and cold in her pride. Thus, she will not yield to the LORD's Spirit. Neither will she pray and worship the LORD fervently because she will be unwilling to weep and disturb her well-arranged hairdo. These things belong to the woman of the world and not to the Christian woman of God.

3. A Christian Woman Should not Adorn Herself with Pearls.

The Apostle Paul also listed pearls as inappropriate adornment for women. Pearls symbolize the costly and lovely ornaments that worldly women wear as accessories in a vain effort to make themselves more beautiful before the creature, when they should be seeking Jesus Christ, the Pearl of Great Price, Who makes a person beautiful to the Father, the Creator. Earthly gold and pearls endure for a season and increase fleshly pride in the heart that causes one to feel exalted and superior to others who do not have such earthly treasures. The prideful way a worldly woman walks reveals the evil motive in her heart, which is to point to the object and image of herself instead of to the true

Image of Jesus Christ. Arrogant assurance in a worldly woman's strut betrays her knowledge that she is elegantly and expensively attired. The certain slithering motion in her walk announces that she knows she is most appealing to the masculine eye. But when a Christian woman is clothed with simplicity and modesty and dresses to please the LORD's Eyes, rather than the eyes of men, she has an air of humility about her that is beautiful to behold.

4. A Christian Woman Should not Dress in Costly Array.

The Apostle Paul also warned against wearing costly array. Costly refers to something that is expensive—that is magnificent—that is rare. Costly often implies a price in excess of the purchaser's ability to pay. The Apostle warned the Christian woman not to be extravagant in spending money on lavish clothes when the family cannot afford them. A woman's fleshly, carnal nature likes for her to display her prosperity in a vain effort to impress upon others that she is a weighty and important person. But, beloved, we need to remember that we cannot exalt ourselves without pressing and pushing others down in humiliation.

Some churches have become places for women to compete for the title of "best dressed woman." What an unspeakable insult to God's Word and to His Christ. What diametric opposition to God's Master Plan and Purposive Will! This causes many poor people to feel that they never would be able to dress fine enough to come to church. What great beauty and harmony exists in a church when one cannot tell the rich people from the poor, neither by their dress nor by their worship. Although the burden of sin weighs heavily upon poor sinners, they will steer clear of churches whose members compete to be the best dressed.

II. A Christian Woman Should also Follow the LORD's *Inward* Rule of Adornment.

Christian women should be greatly concerned about taking on the *inward* rule for dress as well as the *outward* rule, as the Apostle Paul explained in verse nine of the second chapter of First Timothy.

In like manner also, that **women adorn themselves** in modest apparel, **with shamedfacedness and sobriety**;... (I Timothy 2:9).

Before a woman can put on, she has to take off. The same space cannot be occupied by two things. Only as she lays off, dies to, and separates herself from the old, can she put on the new adornments of the Spirit. In order to do this, she needs to be clothed inwardly with the humble Spirit of the Crucified Christ. Christian women must put on Jesus Christ.

A. The *Crucified* Christ Will Provide the Right Kind of Inward Adornment for the Christian Woman.

Jesus was meek and lowly. He did not come to Earth arrayed as the King that He was. Both outside and inside, He was under subjection to His Father, Who sent Him to die a shameful Death on the Cross of Calvary. Christian women are to walk in the LORD's crucified Footsteps and die to the things of the world and the flesh. As they take on the Spirit of the Crucified Christ, they take on His Shamefacedness, Sobriety, Meekness, and Quietness, which clothe them with His Humility.

1. A Christian Woman Is to Adorn and to Beautify Herself with Shamefacedness.

Shamefacedness means keeping one's eyes humble and downcast toward a man and not displaying a prideful, arrogant face toward society. A Christian woman should show social timidity and humility. She should shrink from drawing attention to herself; instead, she should draw attention to Christ by her godly dress, words, and deeds.

A Christian woman with shamefacedness will draw attention to God by her reverence and awe of Him.

A Christian woman's shamefacedness, as far as her appearance is concerned, reveals her feelings of deep respect, intense love, and sacred reverence for her LORD.

A Christian woman who is clothed with holy shamefacedness will display her sacred feelings of wonder and awe toward her Majestic, Sovereign LORD.

Shamefacedness reveals itself in a spirit of propriety toward others and a reverence toward God. Having this *holy spirit* marks the difference between being a brazen, *lewd woman* and being a *spiritual lady*. Lustful spirits work through a woman's bold, suggestive looks to entice men into the sin of fornication or adultery. A wanton, come-hither look directed toward the opposite sex can be the beginning of an illicit, adulterous affair. All carnal women

enjoy and desire the attention and admiration of men, but these desires must be crucified, cut down, and killed within the Christian woman. Being a Christian constrains a woman to identify herself with the Crucified Christ so that the lusts of the flesh will die and so that she can please the LORD in righteousness, holiness, and godly fear.

Godly women need to be careful how they use their eyes. Eyes are windows of the soul, and they can reveal subconscious desires. If a woman's heart has been clothed with the spirit of Christ's Shamefacedness, that woman will have no trouble with her eyes, nor with any of the rest of her being.

Christ's Shamefacedness is a precious, holy, and inward adornment. It is a spiritual attitude which comes from the heart. Christ's true Shamefacedness reveals itself in downcast eyes, bashfulness toward men, and modesty and reverence toward God. It is this humble attitude and spirit that must clothe the Christian woman's inner heart.

2. A Christian Woman Is to Adorn Herself with Sobriety.

God commands the Christian woman to be clothed with sobriety or soundness of mind, sanity, soberness, and self control.

Christ's Sobriety is mental and emotional balance at work in the heart and soul that causes one to be sober, serious, and sedate in manner and appearance. Christ's Sobriety prevents the Christian woman from dressing in a gaudy, ungodly, and lustful manner. The Christian woman who has put on Christ's Sobriety will not give herself to trifling and joking, but will always carefully consider and think about how she can please Christ in her thoughts, feelings, and deeds. It is important for her always to be absorbed in deep thought about God's Word, either on what He already has taught her or on what she desires the LORD to teach her.

Christ's Sobriety reveals itself in habitual temperance, calm, and a serious spirit. A foolish spirit often opens the door for temptations. Foolish spirits of the flesh, the world, and the Devil abound, but a Christian woman is to be clothed with the sagacious Spirit of Christ. As she dies to foolish things, she can take on Jesus' serene Seriousness. Christians can be temperate and calm in the midst of this present, evil day of lustful pleasure and tormenting heartbreak!

3. A Christian Woman Is to Have a Meek Spirit.

Christ's flower of Meekness grows on the stem of His Grace in the Christian's heart. The greater the stem of Christ's Grace and Gratitude grows in one's heart, the larger the flower of His Meekness and Humility grows on it. Proud men *possess* the Earth, but only the meek shall *inherit* the Earth. Christ's Words of Love and Meekness, written in the epistles of one's heart, will endure always and receive an eternal reward from the Heavenly Father. They will keep one from all earthly defilement, perplexities of unrighteousness, and disdainful wit. Christ's Meekness of Spirit empowers one to forbearance, patience, and quietness. A heart filled with Christ's Meekness enjoys His perpetual Sabbath Rest.

Both God and man find a domineering or boisterous woman repulsive. The LORD does not want a Christian woman to develop this type of personality or behavior, but He would have her clothe her inner spirit with Christ's meek, kind, mild, and gentle Spirit.

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 (1 Peter 3:3,4).

The meek, quiet spirit of a Christian woman is an amiable, precious ornament in the sight of God, the church, and even the world.

Such beauty of character never fades but continues to grow, all the while reflecting Jesus' Meekness and Humility. Jesus' Meekness and Humility, displayed in His gracious Words and loving Deeds, reveal His inward Spiritual Beauty. Meekness is a priceless ornament that makes its wearer beautiful to God and man.

4. Christian Woman Is to Have a Quiet Spirit.

A quiet spirit is an ornament that is not subject to decay nor ruin. What sweet delight a quiet spirit affords! A heart that would be filled to overflowing with Christ's holy Joy must first have its spirit filled with His Quietness and Stillness before the Heavenly Father. God places a great price on a peaceable spirit. Peaceable means a quiet

behavior that is marked by freedom from strife or disorder.

God does not leave us stripped and barren in appearance. A woman who is trying to please God in the way she dresses may look stripped in respect to worldly adornment, but true Christian women are beautifully adorned with an inner beauty that radiates Christ's loveliness.

An outward simplicity creates a transparency for the shining forth of the inner beauty of a Christlike spirit. There is so little beauty in the flesh, outwardly, and even less beauty in the corrupt inner heart. Our desire should be to die to our carnal self and allow our hearts to be clothed with the LORD's Spirit of Quietness.

B. The Resurrected Christ Will Provide the Right Kind of Inward Adornment for the Christian Woman.

A Christian woman should also acquire the attributes of the glorified, exalted Christ. These desirable traits or distinguishing characteristics are Love, Discretion, Holiness, and Goodness.

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 2:3-5).

1. The Christian Woman Is to Adorn Herself with Love.

Love is the sure foundation on which to build a home. Mothers and wives are to possess Christ's Love. Christ's Love is begotten in us through His revealed Word that we keep in our hearts.

But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him (1 John 2:5).

To *keep* means to keep Christ's Word in our heart so that we can sacredly and consciously attend and to it and use it in all our thoughts, feelings, and deeds while journeying through this earthly life. The Christian must allow Christ's divine Love from His Holy Word to be perfected in his or her old heart. God has called believers to be holy and blameless before Him in Love. Believers are redeemed and sanctified to be a peculiar people, who are to be zealous for Christ's good Works of Love. God's Love from His Holy Word is shed abroad in believers' hearts by the Holy Ghost.

And hope maketh not ashamed; because **the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost** which is given unto us (Romans 5:5).

God's Love in His Holy Word is a perpetual wellspring that flows from God to believers' hearts so that His Love can flow from them back to God. Through believers, the Holy Ghost also sheds abroad to others the sweet, fragrant ointment of God's Love so that His Love perfumes all the souls it touches and waters them, making them fruitful in desire to know the LORD. God's Love is a perpetual wellspring from His Word on High.

In the Christian wife's relationship to her husband and children, she is to show forth Christ's Love. Human love falls far short of the many demands that family life makes upon it. The home comes into being as the result of the natural love of a man and woman, but the home continues its unified existence as the husband and wife press on to attain more and more of God's Word in their hearts; thus, they acquire more and more of Christ's eternal, divine Love. Then, they must allow the Holy Ghost to shed abroad the Love of God that they have stored in their hearts so that it returns to God and also fills their home.

The Apostle Paul beautifully described Christ divine Love in First Corinthians, chapter thirteen. Having Christ's kind of Love means that the believer possesses a love that suffers long, is kind, does not envy, vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, does not behave itself unseemly, seeks not her own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil, rejoices not in iniquity, rejoices in Truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Christ's Love is the key to a happy home and a rewarding life.

2. The Christian Woman Is to Adorn Herself with Discretion.

God commands a Christian woman to be discreet. *Discreet* means safe, sound in mind, self-controlled, moderate as to opinion or passion, sober, temperate. To be discreet means to be careful about what one says or does, to be prudent and careful. A Christian wife and mother needs Christ's Discretion so that she can exercise sound judgment

in practical matters and so that she can be careful in her conduct and wise in her decisions concerning the family. A Christian wife and mother needs Christ's Discretion so that she can use sensible judgment in maintaining the family's expenditures. What a lovely, valuable spirit a Christian wife and mother has when she is clothed with discretion.

Mothers need Christ's Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge so that in dealing with their children they can be wisely and knowledgeably discrete and approach them with understanding. Wisdom is knowing *when* to speak and *what* to speak. A parent's thinking needs to be sound, safe, moderate and controlled. Parents can cause many battles to cease in the home by using Christ's Discretion and Wisdom.

If wives are to be holy Christian women, they must be Christ-controlled! Christian wives and mothers need Christ's adornment of discretion.

3. A Christian Woman Is to Adorn Herself with Christ's Chaste Nature of Holiness.

Christ's Chaste Nature displays His Moral Excellence through His forbearance from all impure thoughts, feelings, and deeds. Christ's Chastity is displayed through His Purity, Innocence, and the absence of all seductive influences.

The LORD Jesus Christ is the believer's Role Model of Chastity and Purity. Christian women are to allow His Nature to grow a New Heart in them, by regenerating, converting, conforming, and transforming their old hearts.

Chaste behaviour is becoming in those who bear the Name of Jesus Christ. Christ's Chaste Nature is holy and pure, and when the Christian woman allows His Nature to grow in her, it prevents her from unlawful acts; it also keeps her from the thoughts and desires to commit unlawful deeds. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8).

The pure in heart are happy with the LORD, and they are committed to following His Master Plan and Purposive Will.

4. A Christian Woman Is to Adorn Herself with Christ's Good Spirit.

The Hebrew word for *good* is *tobe*, which means to be well, beautiful, cheerful, favorable, gracious, joyful, kindly, loving, merry, pleasant, precious, prosperity, ready, and sweet. Jesus declared the Truth that this kind of *good* comes only from God.

And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, **Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God** (Luke 18:18,19).

God the Father is the eternal Cause and the everlasting Fountainhead of all Good. He has put His Good in His only Begotten Son. This divine *Good* can be summed up as divine *Happiness*. Jesus was happy because He delighted in His Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will. The Christian woman finds Christ's *Happiness* and Cheerfulness as she allows Jesus Christ to teach her to delight in the Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will for her.

Even Christians have no goodness of their own, but as they come to Jesus and lay aside their filthy garments of self-righteousness, He will impart His Heavenly Father's Good to them. Christians grow in the Father's happy Good as Christ's Life grows within them.

The Christian woman's manner of dress and her appearance concern the LORD. Both her outward and inward appearances are vitally important to God. Outwardly, she is to be modest and separated. Inwardly, she is to take on the Nature and Spirit of the Crucified and Resurrected Christ. The Christian woman is to adorn herself with shamefacedness, sobriety, and a meek and quiet spirit. To all this, Jesus will add the beauty of His Love, Discretion, Holiness, and the happy, joyful Good of His Father, if a woman desires to be like Him.

The Apostle Paul also confirmed the Good Happiness and Joy that are found in God's Kingdom.

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. (Romans 14:17).

The true Nature of God's Kingdom is the Good of His Happiness and Joy over His holy, divine Master Plan and Purposive Will that rules in His Kingdom. The Nature of God's Kingdom does not consist of earthly substance of meat and drink, but of righteousness, peace, and joy.

God promises to make a Christian mother good or joyful.

He maketh the barren woman to keep house, **and to be a joyful mother of children**. Praise ye the LORD (Psalm 113:9).

A barren woman who has been restored to the privilege of motherhood experiences Christ's Joy or Good when she happily gathers her children about her. Likewise, when ministers have the privilege of leading God's spiritual children in growth to the Fullness of Christ's Stature, they experience Christ's Good Happiness and Rejoicing over His children that surround them.

The LORD's Kingdom and Presence is full of Good (Joy), Satisfaction, and Happiness.

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: **in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures** for evermore (Psalm 16:11).

In the LORD's Holy Presence is fullness of Joy or satisfaction of Joys. Earthly, worldly, and creature pleasures never can satisfy nor make man's soul and spirit happy. But the Good Pleasure, Joy, and Satisfaction in His Presence and in His Kingdom give eternal delight to the penitent soul and spirit that is in communion with Him.

Christian women, by Christ's manifold Mercies and great Grace, can be all that God intends for them to be. God will not withhold His Good Happiness and Joy from those who stay in submission to His Master Plan and in subjection to His Purposive Will and who seek His Sovereign, Supreme Headship in all affairs of life.

God's Way is peaceable, kind, and loving, and a true wife and mother will endeavor to walk in Christ's Footsteps since He is the Way to the Fountainhead of all Good. As the Christian wife and mother walks onward and upward in the Good of God's Purposive Will, she will find the joy and satisfaction for which her heart and soul have always longed. Jesus will lead and guide and give her strength to be inwardly and outwardly all that He wants her to be.

* For more information about long hair, see: B. R. Hicks, [*Why Long Hair for Women and Short Hair for Men*](#) (Jeffersonville, Indiana: Christ Gospel Churches Int'l, Inc., 1991).

Chapter Five

God's Instructive Wisdom For How A Christian Woman Is To Learn

Before writing to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon, who were ministers, the Apostle Paul directed his Epistles to the Churches.

Timothy and Titus were Evangelists who worked under the Apostle Paul's authority. They watered and fed the churches that had already been planted.

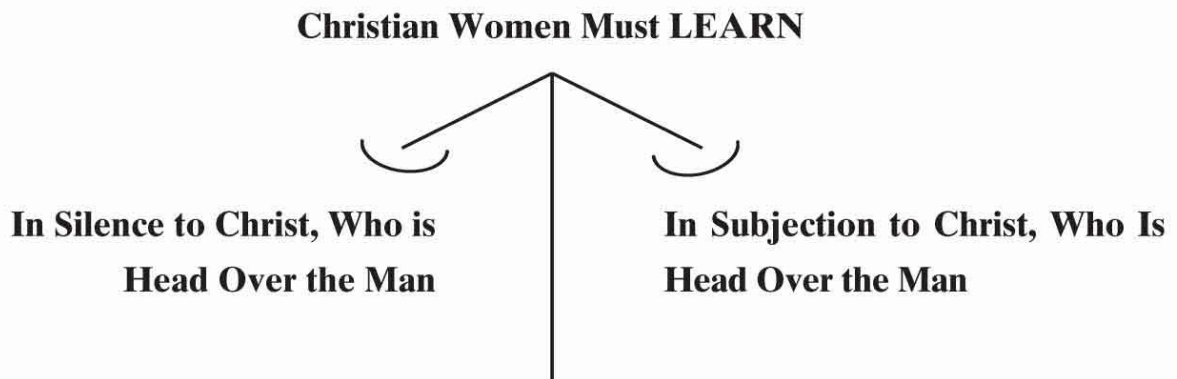
The Apostle Paul selected Timothy as an assistant in his labours for Jesus Christ because of his good testimony among the Christians. Paul taught Timothy the Word of God so that he, in turn, could teach the Churches and the Christian husbands and wives about the kind of Christian behavior that would be pleasing to the LORD, both in the Church and in the home.

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. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety (1 Timothy 2:11-15).

In these verses, the Apostle Paul was not giving Timothy exhortations and directions for some Church; rather, he was giving governance and guidance for a Christian woman's dress and her relationship to her family within the home.

God places the responsibility of the spiritual leadership in the home upon the man, who is to take on Christ's Headship. Christ has God's Headship, and when a husband has Christ's and God the Father's Headship over him, he is to let it flow out to the woman.

The Apostle Paul prepared Timothy to teach Christian women to learn in silence and subjection to Christ, the one Head in the Christian home.



The Hebrew word for *learn* is *tal-meed*, which means a pupil, a scholar; it is from the Hebrew root word *lam-mad*, which means to goad, to teach, to instruct, a skilled teacher.

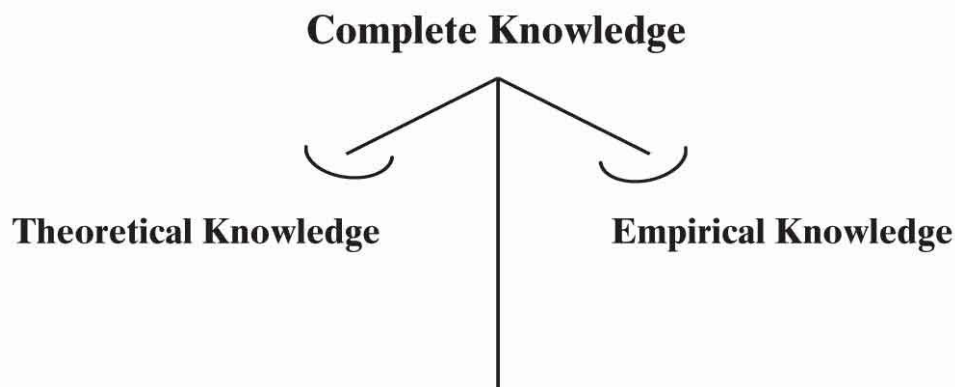
The woman not only is to learn from her natural Christian husband but also from her espoused Spiritual Husband, Jesus Christ, so that she can become a pupil and scholar in God's Word and a teacher of it, both at home and, in some way, at church.

God gave *ALL* Israel—men, women, and children—His Law to learn, to keep, and to do.

And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, **Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments** which I speak in your ears this day, **that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them** (Deuteronomy 5:1).

Moses commanded all souls in Israel to become scholars of the LORD's *Torah* Truth by appropriating that which they were told and by studying to understand the spiritual meaning of what they were taught. They were to endeavour, conscientiously, to keep in their hearts and minds all they had been taught.

Each person, today, is to become a doer of the LORD's Truth by carrying out God's Moral Principles in his or her thoughts, feelings, and deeds. Theoretical Knowledge, apart from practical fulfillment, has neither temporal nor eternal value. Knowledge can never be whole nor complete without the union of Theoretical Knowledge *and* Empirical Knowledge.



Theoretical Knowledge, apart from Empirical Knowledge or Experiential Knowledge, is only an intellectual game that carries no serious intention nor compulsion to unite it with practical experience in one's life. God commanded all Israel—men, women, and children—not only to learn but to act according to the Moral Principles of His *Torah* Truth.

God expects and commands men, women, and children to learn, to understand, and to practice His Truth by sharing it in the home and outside the home. We are to learn to be disciples, scholars, and teachers of both God's Theoretical Truth and His Experiential Truth by sharing them with others.

The Psalmist declared that, from his youth, God had been his teacher or his "learner."

O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works (Psalm 71:17).

God was his Teacher because the Psalmist was a willing pupil and disciple.

When God commanded the Israelites to teach their men, women, and children, He used the Hebrew word *lam-mad* or *learn*.

Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as **frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach [lam-mad] them your children,** speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: (Deuteronomy 11:18-20).

The LORD gave commands to adult Israelites so that they could understand how they were to develop a consciousness of a oneness of relationship with God through His Word. In these three verses, one learns where God's Word is to be placed—in and on one's being—so that parents can be teachers or learners, *law-mad*, as it were, to their children.

God's Command to Israel to Learn and to Teach His Word

IV. Christians Are to Write God's Word upon Their Doorposts and Their Gates.

II. Christians Are to Lay up God's Word in Their *Nephesh* Souls (the Humility Decider Mind in the Body).

III. Christians Are to Bind God's Word on Their Hands so that It Is a Frontlet before Their Eyes.

I. Christians Are to Lay up God's Word in Their Lover Hearts.

In order to be a teacher or "learner" for others, we must lay up God's Word in our heart because the growth of the Word in our *lover heart** will cause it to burn with love and desire to *know* God's Master Plan and to *do* His Purposive Will.

Also, to be a teacher or "learner" for others, we must lay up God's Word in our *nephesh** mind that resides in our body so that the LORD's Truth remains the object of our care and concern. Then, our *nephesh* mind, our humility *decider* mind, will be able to choose always to keep the Truth in our thoughts, feelings, and actions.

In order to be a teacher or "learner" for others, as Paul commanded the Christian woman to *learn*, believers must also publicly bind the Word of God on their hands, as it were, and remember that, as believers, they live to make the LORD's *Torah*-Truth known to others. Christians are to use their hands to lift up the LORD's Name and His Truth, thus pointing others to Him.

Christians are to keep the LORD's Word as frontlets between their eyes. The Hebrew word for *frontlet* is *to-faw-faw*, which means to bind round, to surround. The LORD commands believers to have their eyes always bound round about with the beautiful images of His *Torah*-Truth.

When believers write the LORD's Truth upon their doorposts and upon their gates, the Truth constantly reminds them that God's Mercy and Grace will go before them as the Guide of their way and as the Governor of their footsteps. God's Written Word on the believers' doorposts and on their gates constantly reminds them, as they return home, that His Mercy and Grace, through His Truth, has brought them safely home again. Hence, their hearts will be filled with great gratitude and thankful appreciation for His guiding, governing, and keeping Power as they live and

serve Him.

When the Christian wife has obeyed the LORD's commands to put God's Word in her *lover* heart and in her *decider* mind and has bound God's Word as frontlets before her eyes and has written His Word upon the doorposts and gates of her home, then she will be able to teach, "learn", and discipline her children with the Lord's *Torah-Truth*.

The woman in the home is to learn (*law-mad*) from her natural husband and also from her spiritual Husband, Jesus Christ, how to be a pupil, a scholar, a skilled teacher, and an instructor.

God's Word is filled with this Truth about *law-mad* learning. The purpose for learning is so that we will be equipped to share the LORD's Truth, both privately and publicly.

The meanings conveyed in the words *silence* and *subjection* show what attitude the Christian wife's heart and soul must have for her to learn the *Torah-Truth*; of course, this also applies to the Christian husband.

The true meaning of *silence* and *subjection* is not for the purpose of the woman remaining ignorant, unlearned, and speechless about God's Holy Word of Truth. On the contrary, it is for the purpose of truly learning, once the heart is quiet and calm before the LORD. True silence simply refers to the stillness and quietness that a trustful soul has toward the LORD.

The Hebrew word for *silence*, in Paul's command to Timothy, is *doo-mawm*, which means quiet, devotion, confidence, rest, trust, ease from pain, to be still, to tarry, to wait, to trust, etc. This Hebrew word appears in several Scriptures that make its meaning clear.

Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed (Psalm 65:1).

"Praise waiteth for Thee" is rendered in Hebrew in this way: "Only for God doth my soul wait in stillness." Thus, Christ, the One Head in the Christian home will teach the woman in the home when her soul waits in stillness for God's Instruction.

The soul's best time for being taught by Christ is when the soul waits in deep devotion and stillness before Him. When the soul is *silent*, it is teachable. After one has learned to be silent before Christ, he or she can teach others. When the soul's emotions are silent before the LORD, gratitude and learning begin; spiritual classes begin!

Truly **my soul waiteth upon God**: from him cometh my salvation (Psalm 62:1).

In Hebrew, this passage reads the same way as in the verse in Psalm, chapter sixty-five, verse one, where the English word is *waiteth*: "Only for God doth my soul wait in stillness" or silence. To God, and to Him alone, does an humble, quiet soul turn that has learned resignation and quiet confidence in times of distress. The Christian woman in the home has to learn to surrender to Christ, the one Head of the home, the same way that her Christian husband must learn—in silent resignation to the LORD. The Christian home has the same Head that Adam-male and Adam-female had in the Garden of Eden, before sin. This Head is the LORD Jesus Christ. When Adam-male and Adam-female negated Christ's Headship, the occupants of the Garden of Eden were cast out of their home into earthly misery, woe and affliction, outside the Garden.

It is good that a man should both hope and **quietly wait** for the salvation of the LORD (Lamentations 3:26).

God's Word continually teaches believers to learn and to wait in silence or quiet confidence in the LORD.

Man's soul must learn to wait quietly, in exclusive submission and uncomplaining silence, before the LORD for His Salvation.

The Hebrew root word for *subjection* that the Apostle Paul used when writing to Timothy is *kaw-nah*, which means to bend down, to bring low, to humble, to submit, to subdue, to bend, to bow the knee. This word shows the attitude the Christian woman must have in order to *see* her responsibility to the LORD; then, she can be a *doer* of His Word.

By the use of the word *kaw-nah* in other Scriptures, the meaning of this Hebrew word can be more clearly understood.

Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High: **Therefore he brought down [kaw-nah] their heart with labour; they fell down**, and there was none to help. **Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses** (Psalm 107:11-13).

Israel's sufferings were God's judgmental penalties for transgressing His *Torah*-Truth and His Purposive Will. When God's Punishment humbled them and brought them low and brought their *worker* heart into subjection to His Holy Headship, they cried unto the LORD, and He saved them out of their distresses.

God also chastened Job for his arrogant pride when he complained and murmured against God's just, judgmental Headship and accused God of being unjust and unfair. However, when confronted with the Truth, Job became silent and was unable to speak. So God challenged Job to look on the proud and bring them low, into subjection, if indeed he was so powerful that he could criticize God's supreme, ruling Power over him.

Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low [*kaw-nah*]; and tread down the wicked in their place. Hide them in the dust together; and bind their faces in secret. Then will I **also confess unto thee that thine own right hand can save thee** (Job 40:12-14).

God challenged Job to trample upon the proud and arrogant and hide them in the grave, in the darkness of Death, if indeed he had the might and power to do so. Through God's irony, He reminded Job of the many times that his prideful boasting of his innocence and his self vindication for his pride were powerless because he remained the same proud man. Job had no power to bring his own pride into subjection to the LORD's Headship, apart from the LORD's help.

The Christian woman must learn subjection to God's one Headship and allow Him to teach her, in her own home, how to bend and bow her knees in subjection to God's Master Plan and Purposive Will in Christ Jesus. Then, she can teach and share the Truth with others, particularly her children.

God promised Israel that as long as she followed Him and let Him be her Head, He would bring her enemies down into subjection to Him.

Hear, O Israel: Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven, A people great and tall, the children of the Anakims, whom thou knowest, and of whom thou hast heard say, Who can stand before the children of Anak! Understand therefore this day, that **the LORD thy God is he which goeth over before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down** [*kaw-nah*] **before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the LORD hath said unto thee** (Deuteronomy 9:1-3)

As long as Israel followed the LORD's Head, He brought her enemies into subjection to her, although her enemies had tremendous strength. Although Israel was weaker in strength and fewer in number than her enemies, God's Power and Might brought them down and brought the enemies' forces into subjection to her.

Likewise, the husband who has Christ for his Head, and the wife who has Christ for her Head, and who has learned subjection to Christ, will have no problem assuming their proper places in the home. When Christ is the one Head in the Christian home, God will make all the enemies of the home to be in subjection to Him. Thus, the home that has Christ's Headship over the Christian husband and Christian wife will know the LORD's Salvation.

The Apostle Paul's instructions to Timothy about the Christian woman's learning, her silence, and her subjection in the home are very clear. A wife is to learn with a quiet spirit and be in subjection to Christ, the home's one Head, and to her husband, who has Christ for his Head. Where Christ rules and reigns, no arguments nor debates take place. Just the LORD's Master Plan and Purposive Will are revealed and carried out. There is only one Christian man whom God has placed over the Christian woman to whom she is to be in subjection and that is her husband, and he is to have Christ's Head upon him. She is not to usurp his authority, hold discourse, nor argue and debate in her flesh, but together, they are to pray until Christ's Head can be firmly established in their home; then, both husband and wife are to be subject to it.

The verses that follow very obviously indicate that the concern Paul voiced to Timothy was about a home relationship.

Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety (I Timothy 2:15).

God's Ruling and Reigning Principle in Christianity reaches to both men and women. Although the dangers and difficulties of childbearing are great and many, God has promised Salvation for the woman *if they* (husband and wife) continue in faith, charity, holiness, and sobriety. *If they* continue in quiet confidence and trust in Christ, the true Head of the home, the woman shall be saved in childbearing. *If they* continue in love for the LORD's Master Plan and Purposive Will, the woman will be saved. *If they* continue in their holy consecration to the LORD, as pure and sacred testimonies for Him, and if *they* live in sobriety or temperance in their food, drink, and in seriousness of mind, knowing they are just pilgrims and strangers, the woman shall be saved in childbearing.

If we insist upon placing these verses in Paul's Epistle to Timothy within the confines of the Church, then we make the woman's Salvation contingent upon her childbearing. Naturally, Paul referred to spiritual children. Any other explanation becomes ridiculous and does unthinkable violence to all scriptural revelation. The answer has been made obvious and simple in our previous studies of the Scriptures.

The statements the Apostle Paul made have raised a lot of controversy, but when they have been studied closely and have been made clear by the anointing of God's Holy Spirit upon His Word, understanding comes. There is no contradiction in the Bible's teaching. Neither a man nor woman may usurp Christ's Headship in the Church nor in the home!

May God bless these Truths to your heart about the Christian woman in her marriage, in her home, in her manner of dress, and in her learning. And may your home be blessed and filled with the LORD Jesus Christ's omnipresent Love that will make it an overflowing spring of love on Earth.



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