

Genesis 3:16

¹⁶To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you."

Desire: "to stretch out after"; from a root meaning, "to overflow"

Rule: "to have dominion; to govern; to have power"

Genesis 1:16-18

¹⁶God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; *He made* the stars also. ¹⁷God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good.

The two lights were designed by God, each having its own domain, with one producing light and the other reflecting it.

The light is described in the Bible as "glory"- it is the light of authority shining out into our respective domains.

1 Corinthians 15:41

⁴¹There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

1 Corinthians 11:7

⁷For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.

God gave bright, shining authority to the man, and he shines it over one woman, who gently reflects it into her domain.

Man's "ruling over" the woman is God's challenge to him to take his place in God's order, to shine, and not be ashamed.

Ultimately, he will "shine" his authority over one godly woman who governs her sphere under his protective covering.

Ephesians 5:25-33

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

A husband's love for his wife is measured in joyful, sacrificial care. He puts her wellbeing ahead of his own.

In doing this faithfully, he earns one of the highest privileges: speaking the Word of God to her, participating in his wife's sanctification.

A godly husband will have a radiant bride! She is his soul's delight, and he will present her to Jesus on the last day.

²⁸So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church, ³⁰because we are members of His body. ³¹For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. ³²This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

He loves his own wife as he loves his own body. He enters into her joys and her sorrows, and gives her the care he himself would like to receive. (In sickness and in health, till death....)

He does not hate her. He refuses to allow bitterness into his heart because it would destroy his love for her.

Colossians 3:19

¹⁹Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

He nourishes her. He provides everything she needs to be healthy and whole. He protects her from the burden of working the ground.

He cherishes her. He puts her first among all the relationships he has on earth.

Neither family, friends, nor even the kids are allowed to encroach upon his unity with her.

He lives to give her life, and he works toward that goal every day.

³³Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must *see to it* that she respects her husband.