

Wives, Honor Your Husbands

Ephesians 5:21-24

²¹and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. ²²Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. ²⁴But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

In God's order, the first woman was created to be under the protection and care (authority) of the one man.

The symbolic tradition of head coverings in the early church was a statement to all: I am taking my place in God's order.

A woman is safe, physically or spiritually, when she is under the covering of male authority- uncovered is dangerous!

This begins with her father, who at the marriage altar, gives his mantle of protection and loving care to her husband.

1 Peter 3:1-7

3 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, ²as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. ³Your adornment must not be *merely* external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; ⁴but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. ⁵For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; ⁶just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

Just as the husband gives himself up to be one with her, so also his wife gives herself up to be united to her husband.

The foundation of a wife's relationship to her husband must be COMPANIONSHIP above all else.

⁴ means by which she honors her husband: by her Words, her Behavior, her Character, and her Confidence.

Words: What she calls herself, and what she calls him, and what she calls out before God.

What she calls herself: A man's wife begins to show honor for him by giving up her family name and taking his.

Isaiah 4:1

4 For seven women will take hold of one man in that day, saying, "We will eat our own bread and wear our own clothes, only let us be called by your name; take away our reproach!"

What she calls him: Wives have a special grace, given to them by God, to help shape their husbands by their words.

1 Peter 3:6 ⁶ just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord....

Her word **to him** must reinforce what she wants him to be, and her words **about him** must always protect his dignity.

What she calls out before God: She wins with silence (refusing to shame him) if she is fervently calling on God.

Behavior: Wives win and keep their husbands' hearts when they exhibit Chaste and Respectful behavior.

Chaste behavior: a wife honors her husband by 'forsaking all others', never being flirtatious or provocative toward any other man, and **definitely** being both flirtatious and provocative privately toward her husband.

Respectful: Wives honor their husbands when they defer to them privately and publicly for decisions and guidance.

Character: Wives honor their husbands when they allow meekness and quietness to be formed in their spirits.

Meek: those wholly relying on God rather than their own strength to defend against injustice; opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest.

Quiet: not verbal silence; means "keeping one's seat; to remain undisturbed"

Isaiah 32:17

¹⁷ And the work of righteousness will be peace, And the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever.

Proverbs 9:13

¹³ The woman of folly is boisterous, *She is naive and knows nothing.* (KJV "Clamorous"- moved; disquieted; disturbed)

Confidence: Wives honor their husbands when they stand strong with him as they face an uncertain future together.

1 Peter 3:6: you have become [Sarah's] children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

Job's wife failed in faith here: "Curse God and die"- she had suffered greatly

⁷ You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

(Ladies, reach out and take your husband's hand....)