

## How to Be a Godly Person in an Ungodly World: Part Two Bryan Garlock

We began our last segment examining the current status of our generation as well as society's view of women. In the conclusion we mentioned that there are three major areas in which godly women shine: their submission to their husbands, their child rearing and their leadership in the home. In this article we want to continue our previous thoughts concerning women and develop her role as well as examine a few things about the husband's role.

First, wives are to submit to their husbands (Eph. 5.22-24). The world simply does not understand the husband's role. They cannot fathom a world in which men rule over women. They think this makes women inferior. Thus to them, God is a woman-hater and a male chauvinist!

Yet the biblical husband's rule could not be further from such error. The Scriptures teach that his leadership is to be loving, sacrificial, and always looking to the best interest of his wife (points we will develop at a later time). The husband accomplishes this by being an unselfish leader.

In addition to the truths above, the husband is to submit to his wife. Many often overlook this aspect. The husband submits to his wife because he desires to please and cherish her. He will listen to her, consider her advice and wisdom and seek what's best for her. Further, the husband has no right over his body. Paul wrote, "The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does" (1 Cor. 7.3-4). Interestingly, his submission makes him no more inferior than his wife's submission makes her!

While the husband has been placed over his wife, this does not mean husbands may be abusive and controlling dictators (Gen. 3.16; 1 Cor. 11). This is not how Jesus rules nor is it how husbands ought to rule. It is understandable how any women who have husbands like this do not respect them. However, if a woman wants to be godly, she will obey her husband. Contrary to popular belief any woman who truly respects and loves her husband will acknowledge that he is her head and submit to him in all things (Eph. 5.33; Titus 2.4).

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## **Announcements**

- o Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us.
- Call or email Bryan to add announcements, thanks.
- We need volunteers for door knocking. Please see Bryan.
- We need volunteers for picking folks up. Please see Bryan.

Five Day A Week Reading Plan

Mon: Job 40 - Psalm 2 Tues: Psalm 3 - 7 Wed: Psalm 8 - 12 Thurs: Psalm 13 - 17 Fri: Psalm 18 - 22 Further, if a husband is not ruling in a godly way, it is not helpful for the wife to become spiteful towards her husband. This only creates more problems for the marriage. Instead, a godly wife will keep her conduct chaste, pray for her husband, lead by example, teach her husband the way of Christ and endure the situation. Many men have been broken of their tyranny because of the kindness of their wives.

Another way in which women can shine in a dark world is by managing their homes. Paul commanded all wives and mothers to "manage their households" (1 Tim. 5.14) and "work at home" (1 Tim. 5.10). Included in the command to manage the home are all the responsibilities necessary to complete the daily tasks of a family. In reality the wife has more responsibility than the husband! It has been said before that a wife is the maid, chef, driver, tutor, nurse, handyman, nanny, etc. If a man tried to pay another person for her duties he simply could not afford it. According to the New York Times, "... stay-at-home mothers spend 96.4 hours [each week]" performing their duties. If each individual duty earned wages, she would net \$122,611 a year!

Many women do not realize that when they have managed their home they have fulfilled *exactly* the purpose of their role. There is nothing greater in this world than for a godly woman to accomplish such. This woman is approved of God; there is no "more" that society can offer her.

While much of the world and unfortunately some of the church opposes God's simple plan, if we are to be acceptable to Him we must obey these passages. While this writer does not hold a strict view that woman cannot work outside of the home (cf. Proverbs 31, etc.), one wonders why we just cannot be satisfied with God's ways? Shifting the wife's role to fit the ideology of today's women has opened too many doors; we are reaping what we have sown. Ironically, while society screamed "equality," the biblical husband was in the background placing his wife on a pedestal and lavishing her with love and affection. Go figure. Simply put, it cannot be wrong and it is always right for women to work at home. Paul commanded such and such was the norm until the 1900's when a movement influencing all women not to abide in such "restrictions of their rights" was started.

Another feature of managing the home is raising children (1 Tim. 5.10). The wife is to bear them (1 Tim. 5.14), love them (Titus 2.4) and train them (2 Tim. 1.5; Prov. 22.6). Women are important because their one-on-one training and teaching will most likely determine the outcome of their children. Will they be successful? Will they obey the gospel? Will their son be an elder in the church? Will he treat his wife with respect and put her interest before his? Will their daughter submit to her husband? Will she love her children? All of this is directly connected to the hard work and long hours that mothers spend nurturing their children.

Notice that God has designed the home to be managed by a woman. Only a woman is strong and patient enough to handle the daily chores and responsibilities as well as the hundreds of random things that occur on any given day. The man may be the head, but the woman is the entire body; consider that the head can do nothing without the body! Truly women are special. Truly, the wife is a "helper" fit for her husband (Gen. 2.18).

This writer encourages all readers to consider carefully the contrast between the women of the world and women of God. In our next segment we will develop some further thoughts on the husband's role.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/05/11/mothers-pay/? r=0