

HOW TO CHANGE YOUR HUSBAND

Introduction and Review

- A. Christology is the key to understanding marriage. *Eph 5:32*

- B. God's design for marriage is applicable at all times and in all cultures. *Isa 40:8*

Is Submission Applicable Today?

- A. Many are offended at the biblical teaching concerning the wife's role in marriage.

- B. Why do some professing Christians reject male headship in marriage?
 - 1. They say submission was merely cultural.

 - 2. They say female subordination was a result of the Fall. *Gen 3:16*

 - 3. They say submission denies our equality in Christ. *Gal 3:28*

 - 4. They say we are supposed to equally submit to each other. *Eph 3:21*

5. They say submission demeans women.

C. God has designed marriage to be a partnership in which the wife follows her husband's leadership.

Gen 2:18

1. God ordained male headship from the beginning of creation. *1 Cor 11:8-9; 1 Tim 2:13*

2. The Fall reinforces the need for male headship. *1 Tim 2:14; Gen 3:16*

3. Submission does not imply inferiority. *1 Cor 11:3; 1 Pet 3:7; Gal 3:28; Luke 2:51*

4. God has established order in many relationships. *Eph 6:1, 5; Rom 13:1; Tim 2:9; 3:1; 1 Pet 2:13, 18; 5:5; Heb 13:17*

5. Many objections to submission often stem from an unbiblical concept of equality and significance. *Matt 20:25-28*

6. We do not have the right to redefine the gender roles God has established.

What Is God's Design for the Wife's Role?

A. Submit to your husband as unto the Lord. *Eph 5:22; Titus 2:5; Col 3:18; 1 Pet 3:1, 5*

1. Recognize that God has made your husband the head of the family.

2. Follow your husband's leadership. *1 Pet 3:6*
3. Don't usurp his headship. *Gen 3:16; 4:7*
4. Your submission is to be comprehensive. *Eph 5:24*
5. Your attitude is as important as your actions: respectful and loyal. *Prov 12:4*
6. Love your husband. *Titus 2:4*
7. Your motive for submission is not your husband's worthiness, but the Lord's.

B. Be his helper. *Gen 2:18*

1. Do everything you can to help your husband to succeed. *Prov 31:23*
2. Anticipate your husband's needs and desires.
3. Use your influence over him for good, not evil. *Prov 31:11-12; Gen 3:6; 16:2*

C. Devote yourself to a home-centered ministry. *Titus 2:3–5; 1 Tim 5:14; Prov 31:27*

1. Put your family ahead of any outside career.
2. Help your husband by managing the home and raising the children.
3. Does this mean your gifts will be suppressed?
4. The calling of a homemaker is a high calling!
5. A husband must work hard so his wife can be free to work in the home.
6. This does not mean wives cannot make any economic contribution to the family. *Prov 31:16, 24*
7. What should a wife do when her children are grown? *Titus 2:3ff; Prov 31:20*

Submission Is God's Tool by Which You Can Change Your Husband

1 Pet 3:1–6

A. Many women suffer under the authority of sinful husbands.

1. What if your husband is an unbeliever? *1 Cor 7:13*

2. What if your husband is selfish and unkind?

3. What if your husband won't lead in a Christlike way?

B. What does Peter mean by saying you should win your husband "without a word"?

1. He does not mean women can never speak to their husbands. In a good marriage a husband welcomes his wife's counsel. *Prov 31:11-12, 23, 26*

2. When a husband makes it clear he doesn't want to hear his wife's admonition, she should not nag and criticize him.

3. Instead, win him by the attractiveness of your godly life. *1 Pet 3:2-4*

C. How can a wife do this?

1. Such quiet submission is the opposite of what the flesh tells you to do.

2. It takes faith to do what the Scripture says.

3. The key phrase "in the same way" (as Christ). *1 Pet 3:1a; 2:21-25*

4. Entrust yourself to God. *1 Pet 2:23; 3:6b; Jer 17:5-8*

5. The same principles can be applied to winning others in authority over us.

D. Submission is not absolute.

1. No husband has a right to tell his wife to sin or to go against her conscience. *Acts 5:29, 1-11; Rom 14:23; Heb 10:25*
2. Submission is voluntary. Men are never told to subjugate their wives.
3. Wives are not obligated to endure physical abuse, abandonment, or marital unfaithfulness. *1 Cor 7:15; Matt 19:9*
4. Wives do not give up their freedom to confront their husbands' sins using the process in *Matt 18:15ff*

Concluding Applications

- A. Wives: Don't let the serpent rob you of the blessings God has for you.
- B. Single men: Choose a wife whom you can trust to do you good. *Prov 31:10-12, 30*
- C. Single women: Prepare yourself for marriage by cultivating the qualities of a godly wife. Don't even think about marrying a man whose leadership you cannot follow for the rest of your life.

D. Husbands: Show respect to your wife. *1 Pet. 3:7*. Be the kind of Christlike lover who is easy to follow.

Eph 5:24bff. Encourage your wife. *Prov 31:28-31; 19:14*

E. Children: Honor your mother! *Prov 23:25; 31:28b*



Books

Fitzpatrick, Elyse, *Helper by Design*.

Keller, Timothy, *The Meaning of Marriage (chapter 6 by Kathy Keller)*.

Peace, Martha, *The Excellent Wife*.