

### Lesson #3

## THE WIFE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MARRIAGE

During the month of February, we are studying the following four lessons on marriage.

- **Origin of Marriage**
- **Husband's Responsibility to Marriage**
- **Wife's Responsibility to Marriage**
- **Resolving Marital Conflict**

### INTRODUCTION:

“Wives, submit (p.m.impv.2pl/hupotasso) to your husbands, as is fitting (perf.a.ind./aneko) to the Lord.”  
(Col.3:18)

Please note the three point homiletical outline of this text. Pay special attention to the triangle love relationship of Christian marriage.

- **Submit – wife**
- **Subject – husband**
- **Suitable – Lord**

**Marriage is a perfect institution consisting of imperfect individuals.**

Perfect means the institution of marriage doesn't need changing to improve it because it is based on the character of God.

Imperfect means the individuals married need changing to improve because of the character of Adamic mankind.

Therefore, God established *laws of divine establishment* for both the husband and wife. These laws allow imperfect individuals to function in marriage as designed by God.

**We will study TEN of these laws, regarding the WIFE'S RESPONSIBILITY, IN MARRIAGE.**

1. **Submission** (*hupotasso/ divine delegated authority*) to the husband's position of authority (Eph.5:22-24,33; Col.3:18; 1 Pet.3:1).
2. **Respect** (*phobeo/ reverence based on God's word*) for the divinely delegated position of husband's authority (1 Cor.11:3; Eph.5:33; Col.3:18; 1 Pet.3:2).
3. **To Please** (*aresko*) her husband, by keeping him a priority in her life (1 Cor.7:34). One area of conflict is distraction associated with the curse of motherhood (Gen.3:16).

4. **Sexual intimacy** (*apodidomi opheile/ fulfill or pay duty or debt*) The understanding that the Christian wife has authority (*exousia/ divine right*) over her husband's body, sexually. (1 Cor.7:1-5; Gen.2;18-25). There is a spiritual warning given in 1 Cor.7:5.
5. **Quiet** (*hesuchios/ holding one's peace due to FHS/ Gal.5:16, 22-23*) and **gentle** (*praus/ not being rude/ 1 Cor.13:4-8; Gal.5:22-23*) This behavior of the wife is important in times when she wants to give him her two cents worth. This is called "the unfading beauty that is precious in the sight of God." It is done out of faith and not fear (hidden man of heart, holy wife, hope in God, do what is right) (1 Pet.3:1-6).
6. **Sensible** (*sophron/ sound mind*) The sensible wife is one who is able to reverse her subjective emotions by focusing on God's word on the subject, by faith in (Titus 2:5; Rom.12:2-3; 1 Cor.2:16).
7. **Kindness** (*agathos/ goodness of character in behavior*) Always extended to others on the basis of an appreciation of God's grace (Titus 2:5; Rom.12:2,9; Eph.6:8; 1 Thess.5:15,21-24).
8. **Chaste behavior** (*hagnos anastrophe*) The consistency in life of walking in the Spirit and by means of faith (1 Pet.3:2; Gal.5:16; 2 Cor.5:7; 2 Tim.3:15; Prov.12:4).
9. **Keeper of the HOME** (*oikourgos*) and not just the house (home wife not housewife). The wife is the guardian or watchdog of divine institutions (Titus 2:5). In America, she has been the mighty force of community volunteer work. The devil has demeaned the home wife's role in the success of America. We have seen an enormous decline in divine institutions.
10. **Love husband** (*philandros*) **and love children** (*philoteknos*) are both learned responsive behaviors of a wife and mother (Titus 2:5). Philos is a relationship love based on the object of love. It is conditional and needs friendship and companionship to develop intimacy. She must learn to objectively love husband and child because of the Adamic curse of Gen.3:16.

You have heard it said that we are a product of our environment, our family, our home, school, church, and our culture. As such, they all have an enormous influence upon how we perceive self, life, marriage, family, and God (1 John 5:19; Prov.23:7). Therefore, as adults we often behave in ways that we hated as children (Rom.7:15-25).

**PRINCIPLE:** True change will come by the word of God transforming your beliefs (thinking and behaving) through the faith cycle (Heb.11:1; Rom.12:2; Eph.4:23).