

HOW TO BE AN IDEAL HUSBAND

Perhaps it is more difficult than it has ever been to be a good husband! Social changes have created a great deal of confusion. The role of woman has been greatly altered....in many things for better, but in some things for worse, in my opinion. There seem to be some women extremists who dislike men and would like to punish them socially and psychologically. There is also a unisex movement, even though there remain differences between male and female in a physical sense, as well as psychologically, emotionally, and in role (even if these differences are in function rather than in value or quality).

THE HUSBAND'S ROLE

a) God said, "man is not complete by himself". After having said His creation was good seven times, God finally saw something He did not think to be good and said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." (Genesis 2:18).

b) The bone from which God made woman did not come from man's head so that she would rule over him, nor from his foot that she should be his slave, but from his side so that she would be a partner with man.

c) After the coming of sin into the world, God said to the woman "your desire will be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." (Genesis 3:16). In this same context God gave information concerning other changes that would come because of sin (Genesis 3:14-19):

- 1) a curse against the serpent,
- 2) enmity between the serpent and the woman and her seed,
- 3) the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent,
- 4) women would bear children with pain,
- 5) her desire to be to her husband, and her husband would rule over her
- 6) the earth would be cursed,
- 7) man would eat his bread through significant toil,
- 8) and the sentence of death is pronounced against all mankind.

Without doubt, humans would change or do away with most all of these, if they had the power....but the only one which really awaits the cooperation of people is # 5, which has to do with the husband ruling over his wife, and this one is being severely challenged, although the Bible still says what it has always said! This disputed teaching is also emphasized in the New Testament. In Ephesians 5:22-25 we are told that just as Christ is the head of the church, so the husband is the head of wife. However, it also says that just as Christ loved the church and gave His life for her, so the husband is to love his wife and give himself up for her. In fact, if all of the New Testament statements about the male role are consulted, it is clear that the husband has the major responsibility before God for the well being of the family, and is in fact its major servant!

While it is true that some husbands interpret their Biblical role as putting them in the command position, to be served by the family, to always be right, and to have their way (and in the process becoming more of a headache than the Biblical head), God's concept of the husband's role is quite different. From God's perspective, the husband is to be held accountable for the good outcome of the family entrusted to him.

In fact, just as Christ has served His church, so the husband is to give himself fully to his family. He is told to love his wife even as he loves his own body (v. 28). He is to nurture and tenderly care for his wife.

THE HUSBAND IS TO GIVE HIS WIFE THE THINGS THAT SHE NEEDS:

a) A sense of personal well-being, to feel protected and secure, the right to be her own person (so the marriage has the force of two persons!), the lover of his wife (also in a sexual sense), a spiritual mentor and guide for her eternal salvation, one who gives her adequate recognition and reinforcement, who gives her praise and compliments, he does not take her for granted, he is sometimes her loving critic, he communicates with her often (as well as with the children), he serves her as a social and intellectual stimulator, he helps her grow to become all that she can be, and he gives her as much time as she needs.

b) He should also take the lead in maintaining order and discipline in the home, and in making the home a spiritual center (Ephesians 6:4).

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