

# HOW TO BE AN IDEAL WIFE

I believe that the wife usually does a better job of fulfilling her role than the husband does, although more and more married women seem to be acting as irresponsibly as some husbands do. There is certainly a great deal of media stimulation to encourage women to act against what has traditionally been thought to be their maternal nature. This is especially evidenced in programs such as "Sex and the City." The cover of the August 28, 2000 edition of Time magazine asks the question: "Who Needs A Husband?" The feature article announces that more and more women are saying no to marriage and embracing the single life. Then it tells the stories of leading women who have given up on husbands, and are going it alone, many of them choosing to become single mothers. For those who believe in God and believe the Bible to contain His revealed truths concerning life in all of its manifestations, such popular media-led departures from the Divine plan must be rejected!

## **GOD'S PLAN FOR THE ROLE OF THE WIFE:**

- a) God states that his intent in creating woman was that she be "a needed helper" for the man, to be his compliment and his comforter (Genesis 2:18).
- b) It is God's intent that the wife love and respect her husband. In fact, older women are asked to teach younger women to love their husbands, and their children (Titus 2:4), and they are also urged to respect their husbands (Ephesians 5:33).
- c) Further, there are verses that encourage women to take the lead in things that relate to home maintenance (Titus 2:5, 1 Timothy 5:15). However, common sense would say that to the extent that her duties demand that she work outside the home, she should be aided in "home things" by her husband and by her children.
- d) While it is true that she is to be in submission (under mission) to her husband, she is not intended to be his slave, she is not to be considered without ideas, or opinions, or having the ability to think, she does not lose her own free will, nor is she to become just the shadow of her husband (look at the conduct of Biblical women such as Sarah, Deborah, Rachel, Esther, Mary, Martha, Phoebe, Priscilla, etc., to see how women functioned under the law of God.... see also 1 Peter 3:1-6, Colossians 3:18).

e) In a certain sense, God has made the husband the major servant of the family, and he will be measured by God according to the way his service compares to the way Christ has served the church (Ephesians 5:22-30).

f) According to the Bible, the ideal wife develops all of her personal qualities for the benefit of her family. Proverbs 31:10-31 says that she is more valuable than jewels (10), she is to be a trustworthy woman (11), she does good and not harm to her husband (12), she gives order to domestic things (15), she enters into business to gain income for her family (16), she provides clothing for her family (21), she helps the poor (20), she is recognized by others for her virtue and her honorable conduct (25), she is praised by her husband and by her children (28), and she fears the Lord (30).

g) The woman has a special right not given to man....the right to bear children (Titus 2:4-5, 1 Timothy 2:15). although this remains a matter of choice for her as she has the right to not marry, and also the right to not bear children if she does marry.

h) She is charged by the Lord to let her special distinction be her Godly character and modesty, and not her way of dressing or the jewels she might wear (1 Timothy 2:9-10, 1 Peter 3:1-6).

j) She is to meet her husband's needs (including his sexual needs....1 Corinthians 7:3-5), to help him be the leader of his family, to help him grow spiritually unto salvation, to be a true partner to him in everything, to communicate with him, to love him unconditionally, to help him to become all that he can be, to seek to please him, to remain an attractive wife of whom he can be proud, to help the home to be a hospitable, fun-filled, and spiritual place that her husband and children will look forward to coming home to.

Carl Mitchell