

*D GROUP – Life on Life Discipleship for Women of FBC

OUTLINE for Fall 07

Titus 2 for women, Introduction part 2

THE ROLE OF WOMEN opening DISCUSSION: #1 Name 3 reasons why women are confused about their ROLE? #2 Name 3 reasons why Christian women are confused about their role #3 Why is submission in marriage HARD?

The CONTEXT of Titus 2... The Curriculum for older women to train the younger

4 that they may encourage the young women to love their husband, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.

Today is part **TWO** of what the entire Bible says about the Role of Women, an introduction.

The most crucial TRUTH: 1 Corinthians 11:3 I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ. Functioning in our roles is the only way men & women can glorify the Trinity

#3 THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN MARRIAGE TO A CHRISTIAN

Paul's teaching about marriage has become controversial because his words are pointed and his biblical view of absolutes is abrasive in our culture which is driven by **RELATIVISM**.

Read Ephesians 5:32, it is the key that unlocks understanding of Paul's teaching on this subject. When you read Ephesians 5:22-33, you see that Paul is not addressing marriage alone. He is clear in verse 32 that he is also describing the relationship between Christ and the church. God created marriage to be a spiritual object lesson of the relationship between Christ and His church. When you observe a Christian marriage, you should recognize its similarity to the relationship between Jesus and His bride, the church. What is Jesus' relationship to His bride? Ephesians 5 says Christ is the head of His bride, the church (vs. 23). Christ's leadership is motivated by His love and tender care for His bride (vs. 25-27). He demonstrates how unselfish His love is for His bride by dying for her (vs. 25b). His ministry to His bride includes sanctifying her by washing her with the water of the Word of God (vs. 26). Christ's ultimate purpose is to present His bride to Himself as a glorious church, pure and holy, without spot or wrinkle or blemish (vs. 27). And the bride of Christ is called to submit to His loving leadership (vs. 24a).

This special relationship between Christ and the church parallels God's design for marriage. God calls the husband to be his wife's spiritual leader—not because he is smarter and she is inferior, but in order that the marriage will mirror the special relationship between Christ and His church. Like Christ, a husband's leadership should be driven by love—self-sacrificing purifying love. Like Christ, the husband should be willing to die for his wife. And like the bride of Christ, a wife should **RESPECT** her husband's leadership and submit to it.

God has called pastors to lead the church in this same way, with sacrificial love, understanding and a willingness to die. Do I always? No way. Do I want to? Always; with all of my heart. Likewise, God's Word says the church should respond with submission to and respect for leadership, for its pastors and elders.

Why must marriage involve headship and submission? Wouldn't it be better if leadership was shared equally by a husband and wife? Marriage without headship would violate God's perfect design. Why can't there be two heads in the family? Just like a two-headed cow, a two-headed marriage functions like a freak of nature. Without headship and submission, the husband and wife are bound to contend with each other for control. American Christians often confuse the ideal of **DEMOCRACY** with God's ideal design for families. But don't confuse patriotism with clear biblical principles. God designed the marriage relationship with a purpose in mind—the husband and wife should illustrate the relationship between Christ and His church. Two heads in a marriage would mar the reflection of Christ and His bride.

God calls the wife to place herself under her husband's authority. **Read Colossians 3:18** "Be subject" is translated from the Greek word *hupotasso*—*hupo* meaning "under" and *tasso* meaning "to line up, to get in order." *Hupotasso* was the Greek word used to describe a soldier who ranks himself **UNDER** the officer in authority.

Why does God ask this? Paul says submission "is fitting in the Lord." The Greek word translated "fitting" in this verse means "proper." The submission of a wife to her husband is appropriate behavior in Christ. In the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the Greek word translated "fitting" in Colossians 3:18 is also used for things that are legally **BINDING**. Philemon verse 8 also uses the word in this sense: 8 *Therefore, though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you to do that which is proper, 9 yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you.* The strength of this word suggests that submission is not optional in Colossians 3:18, it is binding!

But understand that submission in no way suggests that women are inferior to men. Rather, God has designed a marriage to be like a play in which there are two actors, perhaps of equal talent and capability. One actor plays the leading role; the other plays the supportive role. When the two actors work in harmony, each committed to playing his own part with excellence, the audience applauds with praise. The audience would respond differently if the actors competed against each other for the spotlight, each trying to upstage the other. This would result in discord on stage and confusion and disapproval in the audience. We might also use the analogy of a pilot and co-pilot, working together to fly an airplane. God designed the family so the husband and wife would function in different but **COMPLEMENTARY** roles, resulting in a home that functions in harmony.

#4 THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN MARRIAGE TO A NON-CHRISTIAN

Paul's teaching on marriage addresses the importance of headship and submission. But since Paul may not have been married, some people challenge his credibility to teach on the subject.

It is interesting to note that Peter, who was married, gives the same instructions about submission.

Read 1 Peter 3:1-2 The verse begins with the phrase, "*in the same way.*" In the **SAME** way as what? Look at this passage in context, and you'll see Peter was comparing the submission of wives to the submission of slaves. It is not that wives are like slaves, but rather the submission of a wife to her husband is commanded by God in the same way the submission of a slave to his master is commanded by God. In each case, submission should come from the motive of obedience to the Lord, who is their real Master.

Submission is not a concept which applies only to slaves and wives; God's Word says all who follow Christ are called to manifest a heart attitude of submission toward one another, out of reverence for Christ. And 1 Peter 3 does not command all women to submit to all men. Rather, Peter calls the wife to submit to her **OWN** husband, in a private, intimate and unique relationship. Biblical submission was never intended to be a tool men would use to control women.

In 1 Peter 3:1, God tells us a wife is to submit to her own husband, **REGARDLESS** of whether or not he is saved. The wife's loving submission demonstrates her faith in God. Her submissive attitude serves as a witness of Christ to her unsaved husband. God says the submission of a believing wife to an unsaved husband is a powerful way to win him to Christ, without any words—without talking, without preaching, without nagging.

Read 1 Peter 3:3-4 Peter is warning women against trying to impress people with external attractiveness or flashy dress. Godly submission is evidenced by hidden character qualities in a woman's life. Peter is not saying that truly submissive women will wear gunny sacks instead of dresses. Peter is saying that her outward appearance should reflect her inner spiritual life. If a Christian wife has a heart that is gentle and considerate, and if she willingly places herself under her husband's leadership, her character will point her unsaved husband to Christ. But wearing the immodest clothes of the world will give her unsaved husband the wrong view of Christ. A woman's gentle and quiet spirit is like beautiful and expensive gem—God sees it as something very precious.

How far does a godly woman go to communicate Christ's heart to a non-Christian husband? **Read 1 Peter 3:5-6**

QUESTIONS for Discipleship Groups

- #1 What are the ways a woman demonstrates submission in her 1-appearance, 2-words, 3-behavior?
- #2 How is submission unique for a woman who's married to a non-Christian man or for a single woman?
- #3 What are the MAIN indicators of a woman who lives in submission ALL the time?
- #4 **KEY** What specific steps will you take this week to live out submission to your OWN husband or to those in authority over you?

D group projects – one per day; repeat for second week

Wednesday: TODAY, seek to intentionally LIVE OUT the role of submission in the area which is the biggest struggle for you, to your husband or those in authority over you.

Thursday: Today, pray for a woman you know who is unequally yoked and thank God for a faithful Christian husband [or faithful church leaders] – demonstrate your gratitude to your husband in some clear manner or send a note to a spiritual leader today.

Friday: Single or married, in what ways can you alter your speech to demonstrate true submission?

Saturday: In what ways should you alter your appearance in order to demonstrate submission?

Sunday: Put a big letter 'S' on your hand today and seek to submit to the Lord in all things

Monday: Seek out the most submissive woman you know at our Church and ask her what are the three most helpful aids, steps, secrets, lessons learned on being a submissive woman?

Tuesday: Look back on this last week and ask the Lord to work in you're the character and submission and work through you the actions of submission – decide to show submission one definitive way today THEN DO IT in the power of the Spirit for the glory of God

NEXT TIME The role of women in Worship; The role of women in Ministry; The role of women in the Home

LATER: The best environment for the spiritual growth of a woman; the role of Older women; How to Train Women; Titus 2 'Liking' your spouse etc.

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