

Family Upreach, Inc/
Course V: *Christian Marriage Skills*
"The Christian Couple: Her Role-His Needs"
Lesson Nine

The Christian Marriage

THE CHRISTIAN COUPLE: HER ROLE – HIS NEEDS

By
Alan & Shirley Sowders, B.A., M.S.
Brenda Frenzel, Buck Griffith,
Hillery M. Motsinger, Ed.D., L.P.C.

Unit 19 – Lesson 3
(NewLife Behavior English Edition)

NewLife 
B E H A V I O R
Ministries

P. O. Box 270720, Corpus Christi, Texas 78427-0720

"If any person be in Christ, he is a new creature . . ."
(Second Corinthians 5:17)

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RESPONSE SHEET

Dear Student,

We have found that thoughtful *written* responses greatly enhance the student's understanding of this course material. Therefore, we urge you to use this **Response Sheet** as an aid in the study of this lesson.



STEP 1: BEFORE YOU START

Before you start, please write three or four sentences below on how you view the role of the wife and the needs of the husband in a Christian marriage. Then, put this sheet out of sight until you finish the lesson.

STEP 2: PREPARING TO STUDY

Read the Study Questions on Pages 11-12 (do not attempt to answer them now). Then read and study Pages 3-10 as you would a chapter in a book.

THE CHRISTIAN COUPLE: HER ROLE – HIS NEEDS

In this lesson we will study the submission role of the wife in a Christian marriage and the needs of a husband that she must help meet. Understanding and a sincere desire to do God's will helps us overcome obstacles that loom along the pathway. Before continuing, please write three or four sentences defining the role of a wife in a Christian marriage and a word or two on the needs that you see that a husband has (and that his wife needs to meet) on the Response Sheet (Page 2). Then put it out of your sight until the end of the lesson. Next, we recommend that you read the entire lesson through once, without looking up any of the scriptures. Finally, go back for a more in-depth study and read all Bible references before you try to complete the Study Questions on Pages 11-12.

I. INTRODUCTION

We live in a time when marriage and the family is in grave danger and marital roles are being challenged. Humanity has departed from the original plan of God for married people since the dawn of Creation. Confusion is the result. Feminism and *male chauvinism* are emerging extremes but they do not contribute positively to the establishment of a co-operative and satisfying environment for males and females.

The Christian couple is blessed because they have returned to the Bible standard for needed direction and instruction.



In the beginning of this study, we suggest the reading of several passages from both the Old and New Testaments. These will be profitable . . .

Genesis 1:24-31

Malachi 2:13-16

Mark 10:2-12

First Timothy 2:8-15

Titus 2:3-5

Genesis 2:18-25

Matthew 5:27-32

First Corinthians 11:3-12

First Timothy 4:14-15

First Peter 2:18-3:6

Proverbs 31:10-31

Matthew 19:3-12

Ephesians 5:15-33

First Timothy 5:9-10

First Peter 3:7-12

II. God's Basic Order

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

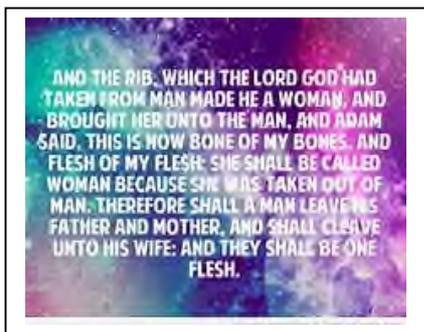
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Thus does Adam announce on this Bible page the will of God. Being “one flesh” does not mean becoming a single *blended* individual. It means two becoming “one” in aim and purpose. It creates a unified team. Together, Adam and Eve were to be fruitful and multiply – bringing children into the world. However, it is their *mutual* responsibility to be homemakers.

The basic consideration is how they work together (cooperatively and effectively) for the good of all concerned (the family). At this point, we are concerned about the role and status of the Christian *wife* in the marital relationship.

Genesis 2:20 reports that among the animals and the rest of creation there was not found a “help meet” (or “fit”) for Adam.

So, the Lord God fashioned one for him from one of Adam’s ribs – “a helper



comparable to him.” From this passage, we conclude that God intended her to be a “completer” for the man – filling his need for a companion. God deemed it necessary for man to have a social companion when He saw . . . “it was not good for man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18).

From the third chapter of Genesis on, the Bible assigns the woman a subordinate role – that of being in subjection to her husband.

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.”

- Ephesians 5:22-24

“Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without the word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.”

- First Peter 3:1-2

Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Greek Words claims that the word “submit” comes from the Greek word – “hupotasso” – which comes from a *military* term meaning to . . . “line oneself up under” as *a soldier submits to his military superiors*. Included in this term is the understanding that the wife voluntarily surrenders her rights in this matter. It is not something coerced or to be compelled.

Steve Farrar in his book, The Point Man, likens this relationship to what he terms the “Montana-Rice Principle.” In order to make the connection, you must be familiar with the history of an NFL team called the San Francisco 49ers. Jerry Rice was an All-Pro

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wide receiver in “subjection” to his quarterback , All-Pro Joe Montana . . . like the church is subject to Christ and the wife is subject to her husband. The quarterback is “in charge” (*someone has* to be) but the common aim is winning the game. It requires the full cooperation of all team members. A team “jells” when every player voluntarily cooperates!

Feminists and Chauvinists alike feel that subordination by its very nature implies “inferiority” of status. This is not the teaching of God’s Word. A relationship parallel to that of husband and wife is the relationship of God *the Father* to God *the Son*. There is equality but also, subjection . . .

“Your attitude should be same as that of Christ Jesus: who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness” (Philippians 2:5-7, New International Version). “Now when it says that ‘everything’ has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all” (First Corinthians 15:27b-28).

“True beauty
emanates from a woman
who boldly and
unabashedly knows who
she is in Christ. ”

We can see that Jesus’ subjection to God the Father is part of the eternal relationship between them. Although there is subjection, there is also equality of value or status.

“Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God” (First Corinthians 11:3). In God’s basic order, all of us are in submission . . .

• **CHRIST IS SUBJECT TO GOD**

• **MAN IS SUBJECT TO CHRIST**

• **WOMAN IS SUBJECT TO MAN**

In the final analysis, the woman is equal in status to her husband but subject to him by God’s assignment.

Bruce Curd in his book, Marry Only In the Lord, states: “Early in Christianity’s history, Tertullian, a famous church leader in the third century led men of his time to depreciate human sexuality and to view women as a threat to the morality of men. Growing out of this he taught . . .

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- 1. That marital sexual relations were for the sole purpose of procreating children.**
- 2. That marriage itself was a “second-best” state in which to live.**
- 3. That celibacy was strongly urged.**

Out of this emphasis on what he called “natural law” came strong sanctions against birth control, and a lack of positive emphasis on sex and marriage.” Such erroneous views have only been strengthened over the centuries by tradition and folks tend to get confused in their ideas about marital roles.

Let us further note that there is no place found in the Bible that indicates man should be a tyrant over or an abuser of women. The chief role of the husband is that of a breadwinner and he is equipped physically, psychologically, and spiritually for the task. We might further add that husbands should be such an exemplary model of submission to the authorities in his life that he provides the kind of leadership at home that is easy to imitate.

Also, there is no place found in the New Testament that indicates a woman is to relinquish her role as wife, mother and homemaker. Whatever else she did, her main job in Scripture was her womanly assignment as a wife and mother (Titus 2:4-5) and as a guide and manager of the home. Women no longer were to be viewed as mere “property” (chattel), but persons of value with rights and dignity (Romans 16:1-2).

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The Christian couple that follows God’s order

“headship” and “submission” will find that it facilitates peace and orderliness in the

ship and home. It allows God to help them become a wife or husband in the most creative and fulfilling way and contribute to a deep and sympathetic friendship.

To quote Steve Farrar on Ephesians 5:22-23 . . .

“To the wife it should be said that the form your submission takes will vary according to the quality of your husband’s leadership. If the husband is a godly man who has a biblical vision for the family and leads out in the things of the Spirit, a godly wife will rejoice in this leadership and support him in it. You will be no more squelched by this leadership than the disciples were squelched by the leadership of Jesus.”

III. His Needs

Willard Harley in his book, His Needs-Her Needs, presents a list of needs that you will recognize in most husbands under *ordinary* circumstances. More than likely, they are important to your husband. Harley points out the following . . .

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1. **Sexual Fulfillment.** Where emotional affection is the primary need of the wife, physical or sexual expression is prominent with husbands. Understanding and accepting this basic difference is important. As a wife, you can become an excellent sexual partner. You must study your own needs and responses. Become an effective communicator of your needs to him. Husbands cannot read the minds of their wives so, you need to share what your body needs. Communicating together, you can learn to enjoy a satisfying and enjoyable sexual relationship. God created us as sexual beings to benefit both marriage partners so look forward to togetherness.
2. **Recreational Companion.** Your husband needs you to be his recreational companion. Be interested in and engaged with him in things that he finds enjoyable. Perhaps at the present you can develop some mutual interests, determining specific recreational pursuits that both of you can enjoy. Adjustments when you are together will be eased if you can enjoy past-time activities and relax. This can be profitable discussions for both of you.
3. **A Good Looking Wife.** Any man desires an attractive spouse (just as wives enjoy a handsome husband). It is a challenge to keep yourself fit through diet and exercise when you are carrying so many burdens. But give serious thought to your hair, clothing and make-up. Try to groom yourself the way your husband enjoys seeing you. He needs to be proud of you both in private and publicly.
4. **Peace and Quiet.** When your husband comes home, he will treasure the quietness and peacefulness of *home*. His work environment may be noisy and stressful. He has almost no control over his circumstances. Help create a haven in the home that he misses when he is away from it. Such a home will motivate him to be anxious to get home after work and spend quality time with you and the children in his haven. Supporting him in this way is something his wife does best.
5. **Be Proud of Him.** He needs to sense that you are proud of him. If a man needs anything, it is to have his wife as his greatest admirer. He needs to be your *hero*. Honest admiration is a huge motivating factor for most men and



encourages them to do their best. When you recognize and value his capabilities, his confidence increases. Help your husband by believing in him, being on *his* team, and truly respecting him for all that he is now and . . . will become later!

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As in our previous lesson, we will consider the need areas for *men* as presented in the Minirth-Meier Clinic workbook, Intimate Encounters (authored by Dr. David & Teresa Ferguson and Dr. Chris & Holly Thurman). They neatly “spell out” men’s needs under the acronym **C – H – E – R – I – S – H**.

We will look at all seven of the areas briefly. These needs include . . .

- **COMFORT...**

This is defined as “giving loving assurance and nurture to someone who is very special to you.” Such assurance is given through the words we use and the actions we perform. Your husband may receive very little comfort from his surroundings or peers.

You are the primary oasis he has so give heed to the atmosphere of your relationship. Protect it. He really needs the comfort that can only come from you.

- **HONOR...**

There are not many standing in line to value, appreciate and honor your husband as an especially meaningful person. Perhaps you alone see him as a hero.

As Willard Harley points out, he does need to be admired. Try in special ways to be sensitive to his wishes so you can please him. When you make decisions together, do all within your power to abide by those decisions. Thank him for helping you make difficult choices.

In an honest way, make a genuine effort to show that you honor the man you married.

- **EXALTED...**

You can exalt and build your husband up (in ways no one else can) by lovingly and continually working implicitly for his good by being supportive.

This effort requires great patience and deep commitment. But, it

pays off handsomely by increasing his trust toward you.

♥Lift him up in the conversations you have together.

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♥Lift him up as the recipient of your affection.

♥Lift him up in front of the children, family members and even strangers.

♥Lift him up to God daily in your prayers.

• **RESPECT...**

It is tempting for you to be self-reliant, as you run the household while your husband is away at work. Resist that temptation. You need encouragement, appreciation and affection from your husband.

First, he needs to respect himself as a man. You help him feel this way by allowing God to prompt him to meet your needs and thank him for doing so.

Let your husband know that you are counting on him to be a leader and give you sound advice. Allow him to be all the man that he can be. As you strive to meet his needs, quietly and lovingly remind him of your needs also.

• **INTIMATE...**

Your husband has an “innermost” self and vulnerability that he needs to share – thoughts and feelings. The reason he may not share as you would like is partly because of the natural male reluctance. But, even that can be overcome when he becomes confident that you truly are interested in these matters and will be supportive.

Listen closely as your husband speaks. Empathize with his feelings, hopes, and dreams. Allow him that reassurance that will open even the deepest and closed doors of the soul.

Be sure to let him know how “special” he makes you feel when he lets you in on what is in his heart.

• **SECURITY...**

Security is the *inner confidence* that your husband can have in the dependable nature of your relationship (the result of your undeniable trust and commitment to him). Do not hesitate or delay verbalizing this

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reassurance. Take the initiative and show affection to your husband in every way possible.

Give him your sincere praise and support. This will result in his being able to count on one thing especially – that he is loved!

Every man needs this kind of security.

• **HAPPINESS...**

Your husband *needs* you to be his *wife*. He does not need a second mother, a second helper, another boss or supervisor, a competitor.

Make your husband's happiness your Number One priority in your relationship. Be his cheerleader.

Be his Number One Fan. Affirm him in every possible way.

Pamper him. Love him unconditionally.

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#9

STUDY QUESTIONS

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

1. When the marriage is in trouble, the Christian couple must
 - (a) turn to God and His Word
 - (b) enhance intimacy
 - (c) be trustworthy
 - (d) all of these

2. The wife must be careful to not give up her
 - (a) career
 - (b) role as a wife and mother
 - (c) rights
 - (d) control

3. Submission means
 - (a) commitment to another
 - (b) giving up
 - (c) crawling
 - (d) having no opinion

4. When Jesus submitted to His Father's will, it meant
 - (a) seeking guidance
 - (b) asking for comfort
 - (c) desiring strength
 - (d) all of these

5. I am "subject" to
 - (a) the Republican Party
 - (b) God
 - (c) the Democratic Party
 - (d) the Queen and Parliament

6. Following God's plan for submission and leadership means

- (a) having few friends
 - (b) sheer drudgery
 - (c) peace and orderliness in the home
 - (d) boredom
7. While my spouse and I are separated, I must
- (a) be a good steward of resources
 - (b) be faithful
 - (c) guide the children
 - (d) all of these
8. Which of the following are included on a husband's list of needs?
- (a) Clean clothing
 - (b) Peace and quiet
 - (c) Plenty of good food
 - (d) A well-kept home
9. "Comfort" is defined as
- (a) a good night's rest
 - (b) a soothing back rub
 - (c) being given loving assurance and nurture
 - (d) a relaxing alcoholic beverage
10. Willard Harley points out that a husband needs to be
- (a) well-groomed
 - (b) admired
 - (c) educated
 - (d) feared

REFLECTION

Write a few sentences on new ideas learned about *the role of wives and the needs of husbands*.

APPLYING THE LESSON

Finally, to get the most from your study list one or more ideas that you want to use to change your behavior. Also, list questions you want to ask your instructor or studymate.