

PURE MARRIAGE: The Wife's Response – Respectful Support
Sermon # 4, Genesis 2:18; Ephesians 5:22-24, 33

Main Point: Wives, complement your husband, don't compete with him.

Getting to Know You

1. In looking at your parents' marriage, how would you describe the roles they filled as husband and wife? In your opinion, was this healthy?
2. What aspects of dancing make it a good illustration to describe marriage?

Getting Into the Book:

Read Genesis 2:18 & Psalm 121:1-2

3. How does the fact that the word "helper" is used of God elevate the role of the wife in marriage? In what ways does the wife help her husband, keeping in mind that "it is not good for the man to be alone"?

Read Ephesians 5:22-24

4. What is the meaning of the word "submit" or "be subject to"? (it means to come under another's authority)
5. In what ways is a wife to submit to her husband (see verses 22 & 24)?
6. What should a wife do if her husband asks her to submit to him in a way that violates God's word? See Acts 5:28-29. (Note: if she is in danger she should seek safety and help from the authorities.)
7. What makes it so hard for wives to submit to their husbands? You may discuss personal or cultural reasons, but specifically discuss Genesis 3:16b (as a result of the curse of sin wives will have a twisted desire to compete with their husbands, and husbands will have a twisted desire to dominate their wives).
8. Wives / women, interact with the husbands / men on what they can do to make it easier for you to follow their lead?

Read Ephesians 5:33

9. Husbands / men, why is it so important to you that your wife respect you?
10. Husbands / men, interact with the wives / women about some practical ways they can show you respect. Consider 1 Peter 3:1-5 and Ephesians 4:29.

Prayer

Wives, pray that God would help you be the respectful supporter your husband needs. Husbands, give thanks to God for providing your wife as your helper. Pray that the Lord will help you recognize and cherish what a valuable gift she is to you.