

Theme: To fulfill God's purposes for marriage and have a strong family, we must follow His blueprint for the roles for each person in the family.

## I. Introduction – Highly Disputed Passage

- A. Few passages cause controversy like this one!
- B. Some think it is misogynistic or outmoded
- C. Some Christians deny it applies today
- D. What did Paul mean? Does it still apply?

## II. The Critical Concept of 'Roles'

- A. Husbands & wives have different roles & models
  - 1. Husband – head; Christ (v23)
  - 2. Wife – body; Church (v23)
- B. Roles – equal status, different functions/responsibilities; creative order
  - 1. Give definition
  - 2. Equality of status; difference in function; creative order
- C. The model for roles – the Trinity!
  - 1. Father, Son and Spirit are equal
  - 2. Father, Son, and Spirit have distinct roles
    - a. Son dies – not Father or Spirit
    - b. Planned from Father, executed through Son, applied by Spirit

## 3. Example: Son is equal but submits to Father!

- a. John 5:19 – Son does nothing by Himself
- b. 1 Cor 15:27-28 – eternal submission
- c. Grudem quote

## III. Husband's Core Role, Method, & Model

- A. The husband's core role - leadership
  - 1. The husband leads (Eph 5:23)
  - 2. Analogy of head and body (Eph 5:23)
- B. The husbands method of leadership – love
  - 1. He leads by love (v25, 28, 33 – 5x!)
  - 2. Love – give himself for her (v25)
  - 3. Love – a servant leader (Matt 20:25-28)
- C. The husbands model of leadership – Christ
  - 1. His model is Christ (v23, 25)
  - 2. A high call – Chrysostom quote

## IV. Wife's Core Role, Method & Model

- A. The wife's core role – a helper – not submission!
  - 1. Created to be a suitable helper (Gen 2:18)

2. Nothing else was suitable (Gen 2:20-21)
  3. The nature of helping: enable another
    - a. God is most often called helper (Ex 18:4; Dt 33:29)
    - b. Enable another to successfully complete task
  4. The opposite of a helper – a competitor
- B. The wife's method of helping – submission
1. Helping through submission (vv22-24)
  2. Heart of submission – respect (v33)
  3. What submission is – and is not!
  4. Limits of submission – as to the Lord (v22)
- C. The wife's model – the Church
1. As the church...also the wife (v24)
  2. Follow as the church follows

## V. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Do you think in a biblical manner regarding family roles?
1. Men and women are completely equal
  2. Men and women have distinct roles from God
- B. Men - are you following the biblical parameters?

1. Are you providing loving, servant leadership?
  2. Soft patriarchs – W. Bradford Wilcox
  3. Wife need love – are you giving it? (romance novels)
- C. Women – are you following biblical parameters?
1. Are you being true helpers – or competitors?
  2. Husband needs respect – giving it (war stories)
- D. The call to reflect the Trinity
1. We are called to reflect the Trinity
  2. Equals with distinct roles
  3. For God's glory & our good

## Roles and Responsibilities in the Home

Ephesians 5:22-33

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2 Corinthians 13:14

In the family, the church and society, all people have equal value, dignity, status and standing before God, and are equally created in the image of God. Yet, they have different functions and responsibilities, given to them by God, and these functions and responsibilities are not based on culture, patriarchalism or the fall, but are grounded in creation and reflect the Trinity itself.

19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, **the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing**, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. John 5:19

**The last enemy to be destroyed is death.** 27 For he "has put everything under his feet." 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. 28 **When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him**, so that God may be all in all. 1Co 15:26-28

Thus, while the Persons of the Trinity are equal in all their attributes, they nonetheless differ in their relationships to the creation. The Son and the Holy Spirit are equal in Deity to God the Father, but they are subordinate in their roles. Moreover, these differences in role are not temporary but will last forever. Wayne Grudem *Systematic Theology*, 249

25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:25-28

Do you want your wife to be obedient to you, as the church is to Christ? Then be responsible for the same providential care of her, as Christ is for the Church. And even if it becomes necessary for you to give your life for her, yes, and even to endure and undergo suffering of any kind, do not refuse. Even though you undergo all this, you will never have done anything equal to what Christ has done. You are sacrificing yourself for someone to whom you are already joined, but He offered Himself up for one who turned her back on Him and hated Him. In the same way, then as He honored her by putting at His feet one who turned her back on Him, who hated, rejected, and disdained Him, as He accomplished this not with threats, or violence, or terror, or anything else like that, but through His untiring love; so also you should behave toward your wife. Even if you see her belittling you, or despising and mocking you, still you will be able to subject her to yourself through affection, kindness, and your great regard for her. Chrysostom, *Marriage and Family Life*, 46.

18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make **a helper suitable for him.**" Genesis 2:18

20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. **But for Adam no suitable helper was found.** 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Genesis 2:20-21

4 and the other was named Eliezer, for he said, "**My father's God was my helper**; he saved me from the sword of Pharaoh." Exodus 18:4

29 Blessed are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD? **He is your shield and helper** and your glorious sword. Your enemies will cower before you, and you will trample down their high places. Deuteronomy 33:29