

#### VII.4. Lambs to Rams: Members: Men's Roles & Women's Roles

**Real** men and **real** women are in short supply these days since the world looks at such as being old fashioned and out of step with “political correctness” and such like. The women's liberation movement has set womanhood back decades since, accordingly, women who fulfill their God given roles are no longer tolerated, roles which men cannot satisfy. On the other hand, men (*since Adam*) are accepting such behavior out of complacency or lack of concern that the present situation is slowly deteriorating the family as God has structured it. But, we are to “obey God rather than men” (*Acts 5:29*). And that said, according to the Bible, how were our roles set as men and women from the beginning?

Gen 2:18 And the LORD God said, *It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help (Heb.5828-aid) meet (Heb.5048- a front, that is, part opposite; specifically a counterpart, or mate) for him.*

#### When the Woman Forgot Her Place

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and **did eat**, and **gave also unto her husband** (...standing at the other end of the garden? NO!) **with** (Heb.5973- with: -accompanying, beside) **her**; and he did eat. (*Emp. added*)

1Ti 2:13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 14 And Adam **was not deceived**, but the woman **being deceived** was in the **transgression**. 15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, **if** they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety. (*Emp. added*)

The reference to woman being saved in childbearing is seen by Roberts to mean, "that childbearing is taken as the typical function of woman's place as wife, mother, and keeper of the

home. (*Not to say she is to be barefoot and pregnant!- [mine]*) That woman will be saved, **not by seeking man's place but by keeping her own place in God's scheme**, which may well be summed up by 'childbearing.'" This is only true **if** she continues to exhibit self-control, obedient faith toward God, love for God and her fellow man and generally remains set apart to God's service. (*Emp. added*) Gary Hampton

Gen 3:16 Unto the woman He said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow (*Heb.6093- worrisomeness, that is, labor or pain*) and thy conception (*Heb.2032- pregnancy*); in sorrow (*Heb.6089- a pang [of body]*) thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire (*Heb.8669- longing*) shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule (*Heb.4910- governor*) over thee. (*'Feminism' teaches women that this is sexist and therefore dismisses the Holy Writ saying it was concocted by a bunch of domineering men.*)

### When the Man Forgot His Place

Gen 3:17 And unto Adam He said, Because thou hast hearkened (*Heb.8085- to hear intelligently [often with the implication of attention, **obedience**, etc.; causatively to tell]*) unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow (*Heb.6093- a pang [of body]*) shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; (*Emp. added*)

The word "hearken" gives the implication that Eve **told** Adam, didn't ask him, to eat of the fruit of the forbidden tree. She knew better (*Gen 3:3*)! Because Adam cowered to Eve in not obeying God first, he **didn't protect her** but participated with her in sinning against that one law given by God to him. So he too was punished by having to work for their sustenance by the sweat of his brow. They should have followed God's pattern for the relationship between the sexes.

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves (*Gk.5293- to subordinate; reflexively to obey: -submit self to*) unto your

own (Gk.2398- *pertaining to self, that is, one's own; by implication private or separate*) husbands, **as** (Gk.5613- *in that manner*) **unto the Lord**. (*Wives, how would you think Christ would feel toward His church if His bride had the same level of respect toward Him that you have for your husbands?*) 23 For the husband is the head (Gk.2776- *supreme, chief, prominent*) of the wife, **even as** Christ is the head of the church: **and He is the saviour** of the body (Gk.4983- *Thayer: of which spiritual body Christ is head, Who by the influence of His Spirit works in the church as the soul does in the body.*). 24 Therefore **as** the church is subject unto Christ, **so** let the wives be to their own husbands in everything (Gk.3956- *all, any, every, the whole*). (*Of course husbands are not to take advantage of this either!*) (Emp. added)

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love (Gk.25) your wives, even **as** Christ also loved (Gk.25) the church, and gave Himself for it (Gk.846- *her*); (*Husbands, what if Christ never died for His bride the church? Where would that put all of us? Husbands are to love and protect their wives to the point of dying for them! What wife **wouldn't** submit herself to such a husband?!*) 26 That He might sanctify (Gk.37- *to make holy, that is, purify or consecrate; venerate [Webster: look upon with feelings of deep respect]*) and cleanse (Gk.2511- *purge*) (*her*) with the washing (Gk.3067- *loo-tron'- a bath, that is, [figuratively] baptism*) of **water** (*notice he doesn't say Holy Spirit here!*) by (Gk.1722- *through*) the word (*according to what the Bible teaches on baptism -Jn 3:5*), 27 That He might present (Gk.3936- *to stand beside, recommend*) (*her*) to Himself a glorious (Gk.1741- *noble: -gorgeous [-ly]*) church (1 Pet 3:3)\*, not having spot, or wrinkle (*not something Botox will fix*), or any such thing; but that (*she*) should be holy (Gk.40- *sacred [physically pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially consecrated]{ set apart}: -saint*) and without blemish (Gk.299- *unblameable*). 28 **So** (Gk.3779- *in this way*) ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth (Gk.25) his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man

ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: *(Emp. added)*

*\*1Pe 3:3 Do not let your adorning be external--the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry or the clothing you wear--*

*Pro 31:30 Favour is deceitful, and **beauty is vain**: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. (Emp. added)*

Eph 5:30 For we are members (*Gk.3196- a limb or part of the body*) of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave (*Gk.2641- to leave down, that is, behind; by implication to abandon: -forsake*) his father and mother, and shall be joined (*Gk.4347- to glue to, that is, [figuratively] to adhere: -cleave*) unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh (*Gk.4561- as the means of kindred*). 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

When we think of the relationship we have with family we think of our flesh and blood. When we marry, our spouse becomes our flesh and blood. As Christians we become part of Christ's body, flesh and bone which is spiritual and carries more weight than the physical. We cannot rely on our earthly family to get us to Heaven. The relationship between Christ and His church was decided in eternity before man and woman were ever created. It was for this purpose, **ultimately**, that the physical marital relationship was created to show the intimacy that is to exist between the Lord and His bride, the church. (*Eph 1:4*)

Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you (*husbands*) in particular so love (*Gk.25- to have preference for, wish well to, regard the welfare of*) his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence (*Gk.5399- to be in awe of*) her husband.

1Pe 3:1 **Likewise** (*Gk.3668- similarly*), ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the

word (*are not Christians*), they also may without the word be won by the conversation (*Gk.391- behavior*) of the wives; (*Could also be read "husbands love your wives in such a way that those who are not Christians could be won by your behavior".*) (*Emp. added*)

Referring back to 1 Pet 2:18, *speaking of the manner in which servants were to obey their masters*, wives are to also submit themselves in like manner to their own husbands but by the true beauty they reveal from within.

1Pe 3:4 But *let it be* the hidden (*Gk.2927- concealed: - inward*) man (*Gk.444- [the countenance]; man faced, that is, human being*) of the heart (*Gk.2588- thoughts and feelings [mind]*), in that which is **not** corruptible (*We are by nature physical and spiritual beings. It is the spiritual part that is incorruptible, thus it's the physical part that gets us into trouble through whatever lusts.*), even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit (*Gk.4151- mental disposition*), which is in the sight (*Gk.1799- presence*) of God of great price. (*Emp. added*)

1Pe 3:7 **Likewise**, ye husbands, dwell with (*Gk.4924- to reside together [as a family]*) them according to knowledge (*Gk.1108- gno'-sis- knowing: -science {Webster: skill or technique}*), giving honour (*Gk.5092- value; esteem [especially of the highest degree], or dignity itself: - precious*) unto the wife, as unto the weaker (*Gk.772- From G1 [as a negative participle and the base of G4599] this just means she has less physical strength per pound, normally, than her husband*) vessel (*Gk.4632- implement [specifically a wife as contributing to the usefulness of the husband]- Pro 31:23*), and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers (*Gk.4335- prayer [worship]*) be not hindered (*Gk.1581- to cut off; figuratively to frustrate*). (*Emp. added*)

In the same manner that wives are to impress upon their husbands the idea of a gentle nature, the husband is to return such when it comes to his temperament and treatment of his

wife. This requirement, to the husband and to the wife, would be difficult for those who are not humble to the word of God. The purpose for this is so that their spiritual lives are not to be found wanting. When they come together for worship they cannot have strife between them because it would only frustrate their worship toward God. Aquila (*A-quil'-a*) and Priscilla (*Pris'-cil-lah*) are a good example of a husband and wife who understood this point. Not only did they work side by side secularly (*they were tent makers as was Paul- Acts 18:1-3*) they were a team when it came to spiritual matters as well. They knew their places.

Act 18:24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. 26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when **Aquila and Priscilla** had heard, **they took him unto them**, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. (*Emp. added*)

### Our Places in the Church

1Ti 2:8 I will therefore that **men** pray everywhere, lifting up (*Gk.1869- to raise up: -poise [Webster: ease and dignity of manner]*) holy (*Gk.3741- right, that is, hallowed*) hands (*a metaphor for his being holy*), without wrath and doubting. (*Emp. added*)

1Ti 2:11 Let the **woman** learn in silence (*Gk.2271- stillness, that is, desistance from bustle or language: -quietness*) with all subjection (*Gk.5292- subordination*). 12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to **usurp authority over** (*Gk.831- dominate*) the man, but to be in silence. (*Emp. added*)

In all things that pertain to worship men are to lead. His prayers are to be such that display his pious lifestyle with a “pure heart” and “has not lifted up his soul to vanity, nor sworn

deceitfully" (*Psa 24:4*). And not that women are forbidden from participation in the Bible "*classes, as long as she subjects herself because of God's order or authority*" (*Gary Hampton*). And she **can** teach other women. (*Titus 2:4*)

#### Mature Men & Women Still Have Purpose in the Church

Tit 2:2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate (*Gk.4998- self-controlled*), sound (*Gk.5198- figuratively to be uncorrupt [true in doctrine]*) in faith, in charity, in patience. 3 The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behavior (*Gk.2688- demeanor*) as becometh holiness (*Gk.2412- reverent*), not false accusers, **not** given (*Gk.1402- to enslave: -bring into [be under] bondage*) to much (*Gk.4183- much [in any respect]*) wine (see X.8.- *Alcohol and the Bible*), teachers of good things; 4 **That** (*Gk.2443- purpose*) (**by their example!**) they may **teach** the young **women** to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 *To be* discreet (*Gk.4998- self-controlled [moderate as to opinion or passion]*), chaste (*Gk.53- innocent*), keepers at home (*Gk.3626- a stayer at home, that is, domestically inclined [a "good housekeeper"]*) (*Prov 31:10 ...a virtuous woman? v.27 She looketh well to the ways of her household...*)(*Doesn't mean she can't have a career. [Pro 31:18] She just puts family first!*), good, obedient (*Gk.5293- to subordinate*) to their own husbands, **that** (*Gk.2443- purpose*) the word of God be not blasphemed (*Gk.987- defame*). (*Emp. added*)

#### In Conclusion

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents **in the Lord** (*as long as they do not expect you to do anything against the will of God*): for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) (*i.e., do what your parents say since they're only trying to keep you from doing things that are not healthy like smoking, consuming alcoholic beverages, abusing drugs, etc.*) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. 4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to

wrath: but bring them up in the nurture (*Gk.3809- tutorage, that is, education or training*) and admonition (*Gk.3559- calling attention to, that is, **mild** rebuke or warning*) of the Lord. (*Emp. added*)

Col 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit (*Gk.433- proper*) in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love *your* wives, and be not bitter against them. 20 Children, obey *your* parents in all things (*see explanation above in Eph 6:2*): for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. 21 Fathers, provoke not your children (*to anger,*) lest they be discouraged (*Gk.120- to be spiritless, that is, disheartened: -be dismayed*).

**Real** men and women know their places! This lesson was meant to be balanced and fair to both genders but only according to God's will. When we step outside the "natural" roles we were born with we go against God's will for mankind and will suffer the consequences. Pride, arrogance, lust, adultery and feminism are mostly to blame for the breakdown of the home today which has carried into the church. Women seem to want to be masculine like men and men seem to want to be women by giving up their natural role as leaders in the family. Kids are growing up not knowing which they want to be because they are being taught that they alone should be the ones to make that decision. The only answers to be found, in defining our roles as men and women, can be found in the Bible.



#### VII.4. Questions

1. True or false: Adam was in another area of the garden when Eve brought him the forbidden fruit. a) true; b) false; c) the text does not say.
2. What does the phrase "she will be saved in child bearing" mean? a) only women who have born children will be saved; b) for women, their pregnancy defines them; c) 'childbirth' is a metaphor for a woman's place in the creation order.
3. What was Adam's first sin? a) he ate of the forbidden fruit; b) he didn't protect Eve; c) he didn't rebuke the serpent.
4. The wife is considered the "weaker vessel". Why? a) physically she is weaker than her husband; b) mentally she is weaker than her husband; c) spiritually she is weaker than her husband.
5. How are men to pray? a) from a pure heart; b) standing with uplifted hands; c) in such a way that everyone can hear.
6. What does it mean to "usurp authority over" someone? a) to be their boss; b) to accept another's position of authority; c) to dominate them.
7. Why are children commanded to obey their parents in order to "live long on the earth"? a) because they have authority over them; b) to keep them from an unhealthy lifestyle; c) in order for them to receive an inheritance.

8. Name some things that have contributed to the breakdown in the home and thus the church today. a) pride, arrogance and feminism; b) lust and adultery; c) all the above.