

PRECIOUS IN GOD'S SIGHT
The Godly Wife and Her Adornment of the Doctrine of God

REVIEW

Created Order Marriage – Old Covenant -- as the pinnacle of the created order, male and female designed to work as a one flesh union, each created for distinctly different purposes and designed to function in marriage with distinctly different roles and responsibilities.

Redemptive Order Marriage – New Covenant -- as the greatest living model and metaphor of God's redemptive purpose. Christ and his relationship to his bride, the church, is our model and our definition of marriage.

Eschatological Order Marriage – The marriage we as members of the Bride of Christ are betrothed to, given the engagement ring of promise of the Holy Spirit indwelling us.

*Marriage is the first and most noble, timeless picture,
of God and his relationship to his people.
Human marriage is to be a living metaphor of our eternal marriage to Christ.*

The wife is to order her life and responses according to the role and responsibilities she has to her husband just as the church, in perfect function, orders it's life and responses according to Christ.

The husband is to order his life and responses according to his role and responsibilities he has to his wife just as Jesus Christ husbands his bride, the church.

FROM THEOLOGY TO PRACTICE

What should this glorious human marriage look like in day-to-day practice?

WHAT IS PRACTICAL APPLICATION?

What should we be looking for? What answers should we be expecting from Scripture?

Our **BIGGEST PROBLEM** in our marriages is primarily a problem of *personal theology*.

- We often have an unhealthy posture towards God's Word.
- We often have a persistent unhealthy relationship with God.
- We often have a worldly posture to the things in our lives.
- We assume what we think is right in our own eyes, and makes common sense in our culture, is what is true.

Bottom line – Our marriage problems and our failures to engage in the roles and responsibilities that we have is a direct result of our failures in our relationship to God.

Your marriage problems are primarily theological and spiritual.

MARRIAGE IS A LIVING DOCTRINE

Titus 2:10

...so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

Marriage is to ADORN the DOCTRINE OF GOD.

Adorn – Gk. *kosmeo* – which is the root for our word cosmetic. It means *to arrange* or *to put in order*.

This is our goal. This is the right question to ask:

How do I adorn the doctrine of God in my role as a husband or wife?

*A Biblical marriage class should not only improve our relationship with our spouse, it should improve our relationship with God.
God is the goal of your marriage. We cannot disengage our relationship with God from our relationship with our spouse.*

Malachi 2:13

You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

RENEWAL

2 Chron 7: 13

...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land.

Posture 1. Humility “...humble themselves...”

Proper humility will cause you to take responsibility for your failures, and will not be concerned to look at the failures of your spouse. Be quick to apply to yourself, not your spouse.

Posture 2. Prayer “...and pray...”

Do you pray for your marriage? For your spouse and for you to be a godly husband or wife?

How little credit we give to prayer, and yet it's through the prayers of God's people that God releases his power to work in their lives. We are practically NOT people of prayer. If we do not commit yourself to regular, disciplined prayer for your marriage, then you are building a relationship in your own power, without God's help.

Posture 3. Seek the face of God “...seek my face...”

In the Hebrew this expression doesn't just mean 'check out what God says', it is a seeking of God that is urgent, passionate and is a priority. It is as urgent as when your 4 year old slips out of your sight and you go looking for him. It's not casual. It's not spontaneous. It's planned. It's prioritized. It's consuming. It's purposeful. It is recognizing that what God says about something is far more important than what anyone else says about it.

Posture 4. Repentance “...turn from their wicked ways...”

Wickedness is simply turning away from God's ways. Jeremiah 2 pictures wickedness as turning from a fountain of flowing water and turning to broken cisterns. It's rejecting God for something else.

Repentance means turning back to God and his Words. It's heeding his instruction.

God repeatedly called his people a “stiff-necked” people. Why? Because they would not turn an listen. Being stiff-necked is often equated with refusing to heed God's voice.

GOD'S RESPONSE TO THESE GODLY POSTURES

*God's Response 1. **God hears*** “...then I will hear from heaven...”

We take God's hearing us for granted. We can't imagine saying that God will not hear our prayers. But Scripture does tell us there are conditions to God hearing us. “*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.*” “*Live with your wife in an understanding way that your prayers may not be hindered.*” “*How long will you be angry with your peoples prayers?*” (Psalm 80:4)

*God's Response 2. **God forgives.*** “...and forgive their sin...”

One of our problems is that we want God's forgiveness and his blessing without repenting for our sin.

Notice that God first tackles the hearts of his people before he heals their land. God begins all works of renewal by beginning in the hearts of his people. Once the hearts of his people are put in order, then he can work in the land.

*God's Response 3. **God will heal your land*** “...and heal their land.”

God is in the business of healing. He's in the business of taking something that is horribly broken, or something that is being afflicted under his hand of judgement, and bringing healing.

Christ is a healer, and it's not his desire that our Christian marriages be anything short of beautiful and glorifying to him. He is ready and anxious to heal your marriage, just as he is ready and anxious to save lost souls.

2 Chron. 7:14

Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.

TWELVE ADORNMENTS OF A GODLY WIFE

Those who attack these Scriptures generally hold to one of these positions:

- 1) A *uniformitarian* or *egalitarian* view of men and women (without distinction of role or responsibility) Total equality in all corners.
- 2) A *feminine superiority* of the sexes (radical feminism, paganism, new age doctrines, gnosticism).
- 3) An *evangelical feminism* which sycretises Scripture with palatable forms of feminism.

*How do I beautifully adorn the doctrine of God as a wife?***1 Peter 3:1-6**

In order for the Christian community to have a good testimony to the world around them, they are to live blamelessly in 4 different societal relationships.

	Civil authority	2:13 – “Be subject...to every human institution”
		2:17 – “Honor the emperor”
Employment	2:18	– “Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect”
Family	3:1	
Church	3:8	– “...all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart and a humble mind.”

1 Peter 3:1-6

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives—when they see your respectful and pure conduct. Do not let your adornment be external—the braiding of hair, the wearing of gold, or the putting on of clothing—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

Q. What does a godly wife look like *through the eyes of others*?

- through the eyes of a believing husband
- through the eyes of an unbelieving husband
- through the eyes of God

There are 3 pairs of qualities that are characteristic of godly wives.

1 Peter 3: 1-2

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives—when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

1. A godly wife is subject to her husband, which produces respectful and pure conduct.

Be subject to your own husbands.

Subject/Submission – *hupotasso* – ‘to line up under’ or ‘to rank under’ – it does not mean ‘inferiority’.

Submission is a wilful act on the part of the wife. It's a choice. It's a decision of the will.

“...so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives—when they see your respectful and pure conduct.”

Respectful conduct –

Pure conduct

Conducting yourself without impure or disingenuous motive. Your conduct coincides with your heart. Your conduct is honest and sincere.

The respectful and pure conduct of a wife puts the doctrine of God on display in her life. She makes God look beautiful. She makes Christ attractive to her husband.

And his ***observance*** of her pure conduct of respectful submission would be a powerful influence that is instrumental in opening his heart to receive the gospel. Without a word her conduct can be the instrumental channel that the Holy Spirit uses to save her husband.

#2. A godly wife is adorned with the imperishable, inner hidden beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit.

1 Peter 3:3-4

Do not let your adornment be external—the braiding of hair, the wearing of gold, or the putting on of clothing—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.

Adorn – GK kosmeo – which is the root for our word cosmetic. It means *to arrange* or *to put in order*.

We have 2 issues here: External Adornment and Internal Adornment.

Peter's Concern --

Internal Adornment --- the Hidden person of the heart.

1 Peter 3:4

but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.

Q. What does it mean for a wife to have a gentle and quiet spirit?

Gentle – GK word suggests meek, humble attitude that patiently submits

Quiet – GK word for tranquility

It gives testimony to being regenerated by God, and controlled by the Spirit.

What does it mean for a wife to have a gentle & quiet spirit?

She doesn't make waves, and she doesn't respond to waves.

...which in God's sight is very precious.

A gentle and quiet spirit is attractive to God. It turns his head. It's a wifely quality that he highly values.

In our humanness, wives often act pushy and loud to be precious in their husband's eyes. That not only does the exact opposite for men, it does the exact opposite for God too. To buck under any God-ordained authority, for whatever reason, offends God.

You are called to be gentle and quiet in your marriage, not because your husband deserves it or is filling your needs. You are gentle and quiet when your needs are not met, when your plans are thwarted, when your way is overlooked. It's easy to be quiet and gentle when you have a perfect husband. But you don't have a perfect husband.

For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord.

There is a direct connection between a wife's relationship to God and how that empowers her to submit to her husband. If your relationship to God does not have hope, then submission will be a big problem. To submit to your husband is to hope in God.

What this looked like was Sarah's obedience to Abraham, even when he was doing stupid things. She was respectful when he was faithless in God. She hoped in God through her submission even when her husband lacked hope in God in his circumstance.

Her submission under his role of leadership even manifested itself in how she addressed Abraham as her lord. Given what we studied in Ephesians 5 that a wife is to submit to her husband as she submits to the Lord Jesus Christ, this aspect of Sarah calling Abraham lord doesn't seem so out of place. She respects him for the position of leadership that he occupies over her. "Salute the rank, not the man" kind of thing. The husband has been placed by God in authority over his wife. This respectful submission is a recognition of this truth.

#3 A child of Sarah does good to her husband and does not act out of fear.

And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

To be a "child of Sarah" is presented as an honorable goal. A wife is her daughter if she follows her example of doing good (or what is right) and having such a strong hope in God that she does not fear her husband.

The contrast is faithful submission, not terrifying submission.

#4. A godly wife is externally adorned with respectful, modest clothing as is proper for a godly woman.

1 Timothy 2:9-10

... likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

Godly Woman's Apparel & Adornment	Ungodly Woman's Apparel & Adornment
Respectable	Disrespectful (perhaps masculine)
Modest	Immodest (attract attention to body)
Self-controlled (regarding sexual passion)	Sexually exciting
Not exalting oneself or putting oneself on display.	Self-exalting, ostentatious display (Braided hair, gold pearls, costly attire)

Christian women are to dress in such a way that they will not be a stumbling block to their brothers-in-Christ. As well, you could be a stumbling block to a sister-in-Christ in regards to envy or comparison. Either case, a godly woman is careful that her dress will not lead another into a sin of thought or heart.

...but with what is proper for women who profess godliness

In other words, a woman's **internal adornment** and **her external adornment** must be in harmony with her claim to godliness. If those two things are not in harmony, then you are contradicting yourself.

TITUS 2

Titus was commissioned to pastor a church on the island of Crete. Crete had a huge problem with false teachers and false doctrine. Paul, in chapter 1, instructs Titus regarding leadership issues he must deal with in light of the false teachers.

Titus 1:16

They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

In Chapter 2 Paul shifts his focus from the leadership to the laity – the congregation.

Titus 2:1-5

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and steadfast. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

But as for YOU, Titus, in contrast to the false teachers, **YOU teach what accords with sound doctrine.**

Teach sound doctrine and it's outworking.

Older women

It seems likely that 'older women' refers to women who are beyond their childbearing and childrearing years, which, in NT times, puts them at about 60.

Reverent in behavior

Their conduct demonstrates the godly role that they have been called to fill. Adorning themselves in godliness, and submitting to both their husbands, and leaders in the church. All of their relationships demonstrate a reverence to Christ.

Not slanderers.

This is sometimes translated as malicious gossip. The word means more than just idle chatter, it speaks of the malicious nature of someone who falsely accuses others.

Not addicted to much wine

A big problem on Crete.

They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women

In a healthy church, it is the ministry and responsibility of older women to teach and train the younger women in how to be a godly wife and mother.

What are the younger women to be taught?

This is the majestic plan of God for the life of a woman, where she will find the fullest expression of who she is, and her greatest fulfillment before God and man. This is how she is to conduct herself in a manner that gives God glory.

7 practical priorities God wants godly married, child-bearing, child-rearing women to be trained in.

#5. A godly wife must love her husband.

No romantic or emotional love. Rather a love of commitment to husbands when they are not deserving. It is a steadfast love that absorbs another's sin, neglect, and failure.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient and kind; Love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong doing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

#6. A godly wife must love her children.

This is not a spontaneous love. It is a love that must be taught and trained and developed.

To train oneself is to purposefully show affectionate love toward the unlovely conditions of your husbands and children. It is to elevate their needs and desires above your own. It is a love that does not need the underlying emotion of love flowing before she operates in loving acts.

#7. A godly wife must be self-controlled

The idea is to control one's thoughts so that one can control one's behavior. It is mental discipline of thinking rightly according to God's Word so that her conduct and responses to rising and often challenging circumstances will be in accord with godliness.

It's not allowing yourself to have a short fuse or short rope. When you repeatedly find yourself at the end of your rope, that indicates that you are operating in the flesh and not by the Spirit of God.

#8. A godly wife must be pure

#9. A godly wife must be a worker at home

Oikourgos – “worker at home” made up of two Greek words, oikos – home, ergon – work, employment.”

A wife's primary duty is to manage her home. Your home is your first task, your priority occupation. This is your God-given responsibility. And this is what the older women need to be teaching the younger women.

1 Timothy 5:8 –16 widows.
Younger widows are to marry...and manage the house...

GK. Oikodespoteo – governing or managing a household.

To neglect this is to trade the blessings of God for the blessings of the world.

A VIRTUOUS WIFE

Proverbs 31:10-31

This was written almost 1000 years before Paul wrote. It is non-specific to culture or time. Sarah is 3000 years apart from this (1 Peter 3).

The Proverbs 31 woman is industrious, creative, intelligent, resourceful, diligent, enterprising, and fully at the use of her gifts and talents.

This is a rare wife. She is not repressed, oppressed, unfulfilled, stifled, or handicapped by being a woman in any way. She is a true homemaker. She works for the welfare of her family. She “*works with her own hands*” which in Hebrew implies joyful work.

Her work is uniquely defined to encompass –

- the needs of her family
- her talents and gifts.

#10. A godly wife must be kind to her husband

#11. A godly wife must be submissive to her own husband

This coincides with submission in Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3. This is the one trait of a wife that is repeated over and over.

#12. A godly wife does not give cause for the world to revile God or his Word.

When David sinned with Bathsheba, Nathan the prophet said...

2 Samuel 12:14

... because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme,...

Paul reiterates these principles and purposes to Titus.

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

12 Adornments of a Godly Wife.

1. A godly wife is subject to her own husband, which manifests itself in respectful and pure conduct.
2. A godly wife is adorned with the imperishable, inner hidden beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit.
3. A godly wife is externally adorned with respectful, modest clothing as is proper for a godly woman.
4. A godly wife is a child of Sarah who does her husband good and does not conduct herself in fear.
5. A godly wife loves her husband.
6. A godly wife loves her children.
7. A godly wife is self-controlled.
8. A godly wife is pure.
9. A godly wife manages her home for the welfare of her family.
10. A godly wife is kind to her husband
11. A godly wife is submissive to her husband.
12. A godly wife gives no cause for unbelievers to blaspheme God or his Word.

HOMEWORK FOR WIVES

Go through each characteristic of a godly wife and ask yourself if you conduct yourself in accord with these qualities in these 7 areas of your marriage relationship:

Spiritual
Relational
Emotional
Physical (daily life/tasks/eating/working/playing)
Sexual
Financial
Familial (children)

Here are some questions:

Would I treat Christ the way I treat my husband?
Am I asserting myself against the clear desire of my husband?
Am I neglecting anything my husband had asked of me?
Am I bucking under anything?
What are my anger flash points with my husband?
What areas do I think I don't have to submit?
Are you bending your life to help him, or is he bending his life to help you?