

## The Relationship of Men and Women

### Introduction

- A. There is hardly a more volatile subject. You, as the reader, have already started to become tense. Try to relax.
- B. Perhaps it would be good to pray this prayer: *“Heavenly Father, whatever there is in this handout that is of You I accept, but, whatever there is in this handout that is not of You then I choose to reject it. And, I trust You to make the truth clear to me, help me to accept it, and show me any errors and enable me to reject them.”*
- C. My comments are not designed in any way to give either husband or wife an advantage. My only goal is to attempt to clarify a Biblical position.

### I. Scripture Related to the Subject.

*To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." Gen 3:15*

*Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. 1 Cor 11:3*

*For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. 1 Cor 11:8,9*

*Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. Eph 5:22-25*

*In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. Eph 5:28*

*However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Eph 5:33*

### II. Comments and Suggestions.

- A. Satan's constant endeavor is to distort, cancel, and reverse the plan and will of God.
- B. One way he attempts to do this is to reverse the roles of men and women.

1. Men are told to love their wives, take the responsibility in the home, and provide loving care and protection for the wife. The husband is to perform these God-given duties in the same way the Lord Jesus loves and cares for His Church. And, when he attempts to do so there will be spiritual wisdom and enablement for him. However, because of the work of the enemy exerted upon them in the spiritual atmosphere and in culture, men are constantly under pressure to rule over women with an iron rule, subject women to themselves for their use, and prove their independence from them.
  2. Women are told to submit themselves to their husbands. She is to do so according to pattern of how the Church is to respond to the love and care of the Lord Jesus. As she attempts to do so there will be spiritual wisdom and enablement for her. However, because of the work of the enemy exerted upon them in the spiritual atmosphere and in culture, women are constantly under pressure to bring men under their control and to use men for their own advantage.
- C. When the Biblical pattern is not followed there is confusion. Many times the husband refuses by ignorance or choice to assume loving headship in the home and the wife is forced to add his duties to her own. The result is static. The husband does not like what he interprets as the manipulation and overbearing attitude of the wife in her decision making and the wife does not like the lack of leadership, love and protection that should be hers. And, the greatest problem is the open door that such a relationship presents to the enemy. He has now their permission to work in both of their lives, their family, and their children. And, God must allow him to do so because He must respect the choices of the husband and the wife.
- D. There are numerous variations found in the husband-wife relationship as well as in the other personal relationships in which we are all engaged. . To the degree the Biblical pattern is violated, to that degree there is confusion, frustration, and an open door to the enemy. Genuine success is an impossible. The seriousness of this subject can hardly be exaggerated.

### III. A Larger Context in which to Understand this “Problem.”

- A. Relationship to pornography.
- B. Relationship to prostitution.
- C. Relationship to the image of God. Buried deeply in the heart of every person is the expectation to be able to be involved in the spiritual world in some way. Such an expectation relates to the horoscope, superstition, religions of every kind, rituals related to nature, totems, taboos, talisman, charms, witches, warlocks, astrology, numerology, palm-reading, etc.

- D. Many people believe they will find someone in their lifetime that will be a bridge or an open door for them into the spiritual world.
- E. The enemy is constantly working to reverse the curse placed upon him and to do what he can to reverse or distort what God said and established at the same time see (Gen 3). One way he does that has to do with the relationship of men and women. Often a man is subtly taught by the enemy that a woman and her sexuality can be an open door for him into the spiritual world. He may not be very aware of those thoughts and emotions. He is only aware that through a woman, and her sexuality, he will find comfort, healing, love, protection and power. Such a relationship may be indicated by a man depending too much on a woman, or women. It may include fantasy, glorifying of sexuality and even prostitution.

If this is the Biblical pattern, why can't husband and wife, and men and women, in whatever role we have in life – simply accept it and go on with God's blessing upon us?

1. There will be a lot of error and sin that must be confessed, repented for, and ground taken back from the enemy, in the lives of all involved. Such activity will apply not only within the family but will have to extend to the Church, school, work-place and other relationships.
2. There may be a great deal of spiritual conditioning that is present and not recognized. That will have to be dealt with in all those involved and in the areas mentioned above. There will be a great deal of power being exerted from the various ancestral lines – a largely unknown power source to most people.
3. There may be grudges, bitterness, anger, and “walls” built between people that must be dealt with.
4. There will of necessity be a learning period for all involved. Husbands will have to learn how to be a Biblical husband, wives will have to learn how to be a Biblical wife, the children will have to learn how to have a Biblical relationship with their parents. And, the learning process will have to be initiated in all the other areas of life.