

Family Matters

3: The Role of the Wife in Marriage

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2. The Husband's Role in Marriage
- 3. The Wife's Role in Marriage**
4. The Blessed and Blessing Home
5. The God-Centered Home
6. The Parent-Led Home
7. The Child-Raising Home
8. The Overflowing Home

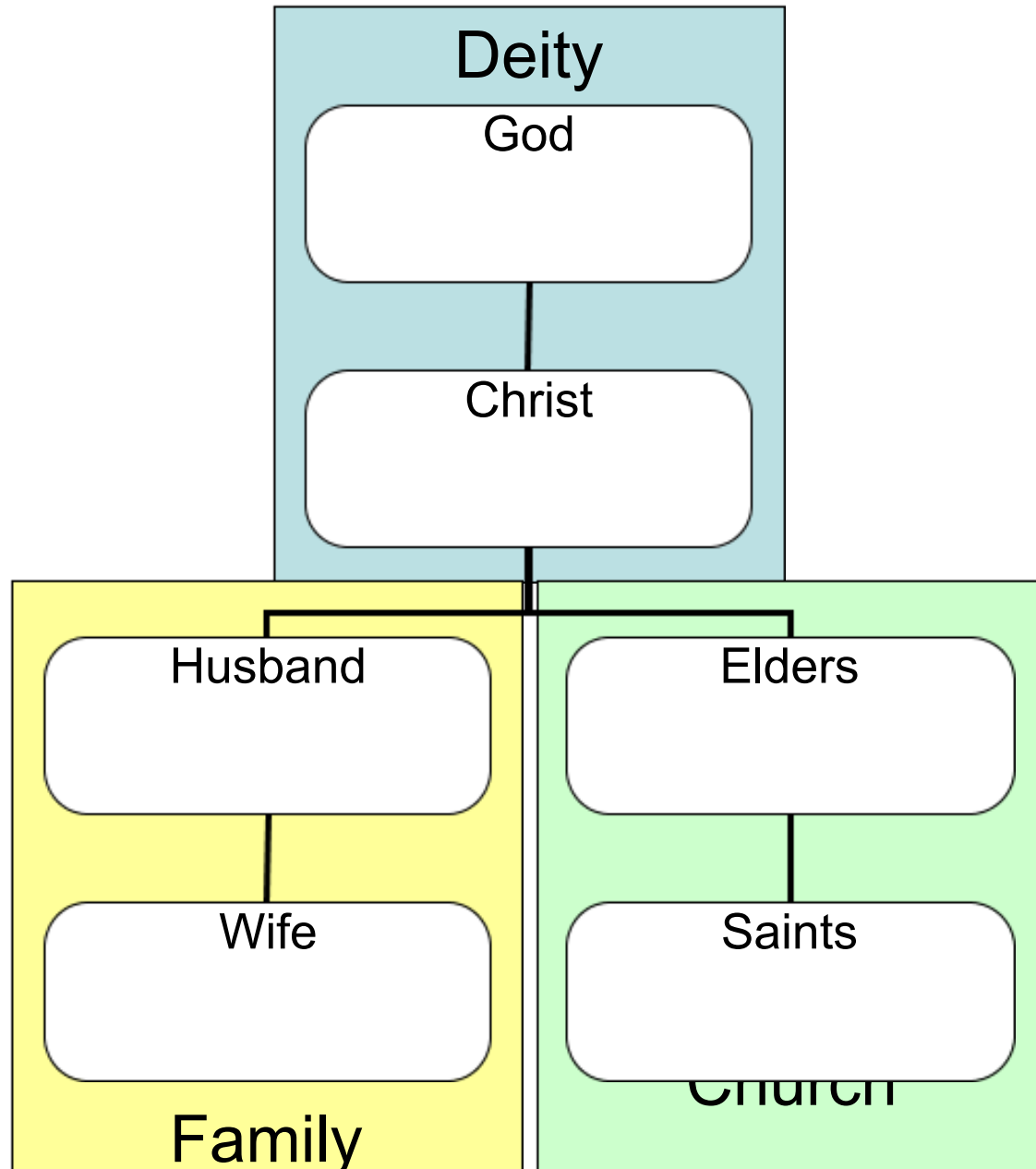
The Husband's Role in Marriage

- He is Head of the Wife (Eph. 5:23; 1 Cor. 11:3)
- God gave Man this Role (Gen. 2-3; 1 Cor. 11:8-9)
- What this does NOT mean:
 - That woman is inferior to man (Lk. 2:51; Gen. 2:19-23; Gal. 3:28)
 - That man has free reign in exercising his headship

The Husband's Role in Marriage

God has appointed the husband as head over his wife, he must exercise that headship as God intends, or else God will hold him responsible.

Headship Roles



The Wife's Role in Marriage

God has appointed the wife as a helper suitable for her husband, and her role is one of submission and respect and one in which she can powerfully influence her husband and her home for good.

The Wife's Role in Marriage

- She is a help-meet (Gen. 2:18-25)

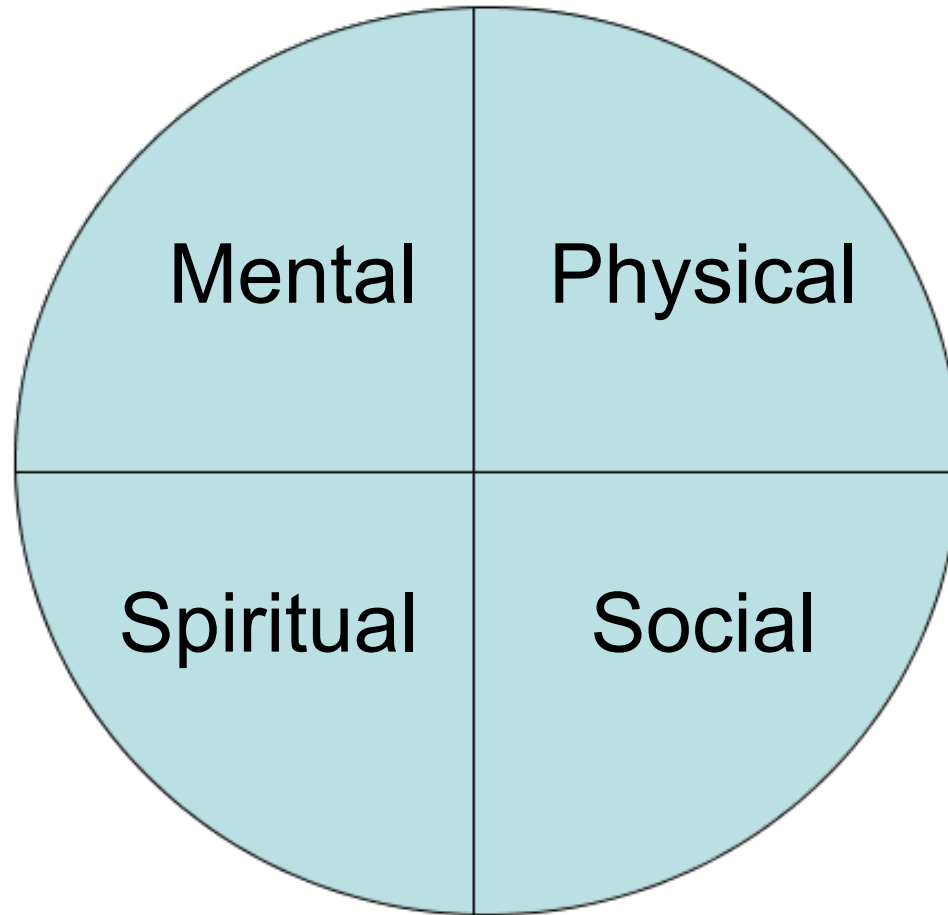
Genesis 2:18-25 NKJV

And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; **I will make him a helper comparable to him.**" 19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. **But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.**

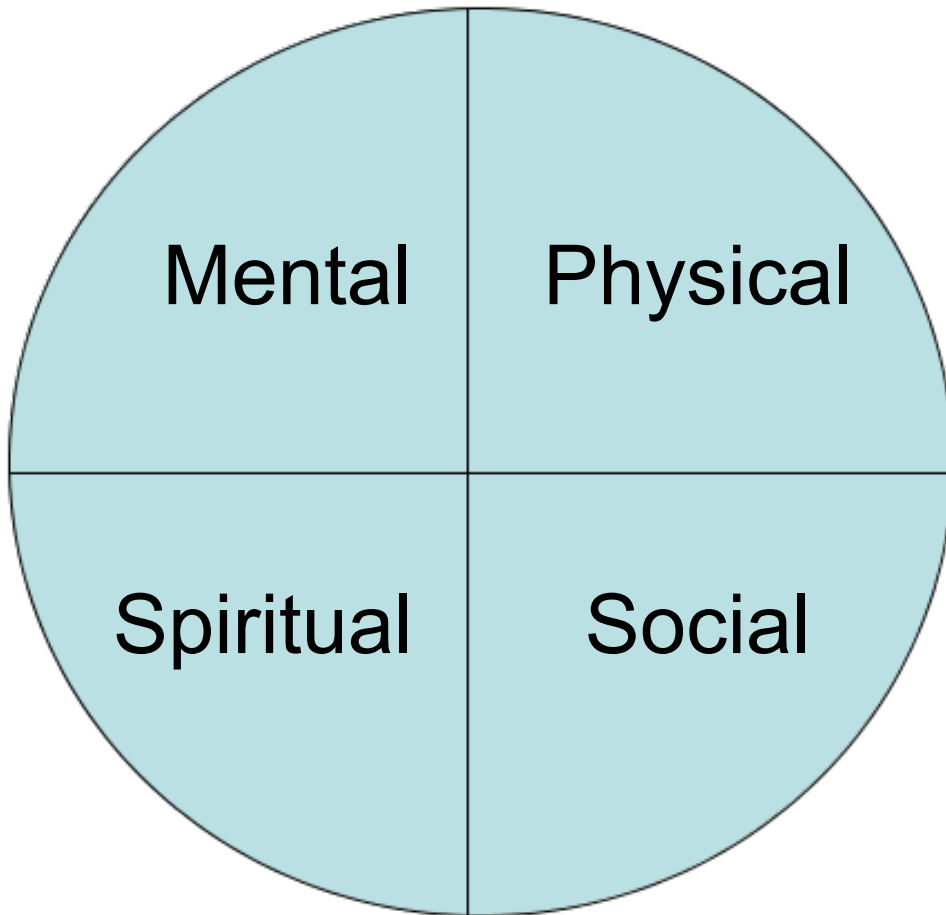
Genesis 2:18-25 NKJV

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

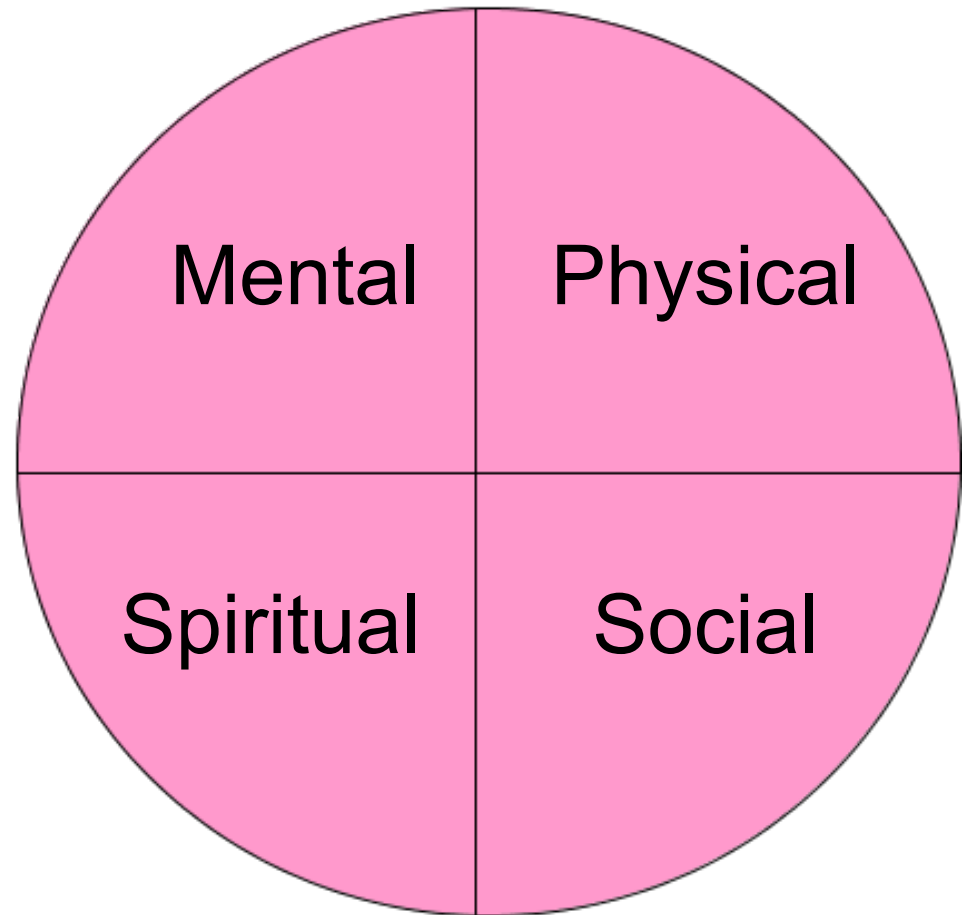
Four Parts of Man – Luke 2:52



Is There Any Difference?



Man



Woman

The Wife's Role in Marriage

- She is a help-meet (Gen. 2:24)
- She submits to and respects her husband (Col. 3:18-19; 1 Pet. 3:1-6; Eph. 5:22-33)

Colossians 3:18-19 NKJV

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

1 Peter 3:1-6 NKJV

Wives, likewise, **be submissive to your own husbands**, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward -- arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with **the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.**

1 Peter 3:1-6 NKJV

5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

Ephesians 5:22-33 NKJV

Wives, **submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.** 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, **just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything ...** 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and **let the wife see that she respects her husband.**

Let the Wife See that She Respects Her Husband...

- In his realms of conquest
- In his headship and authority
- In his insight and expertise
- In his desire for companionship
- In his need for sexual fulfillment

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- She submits to and respects her husband (Col. 3:18-19; 1 Pet. 3:1-6; Eph. 5:22-33)
- In this role, she can powerfully influence her husband and her home for good (1 Pet. 3:1-3; Prov. 14:1)

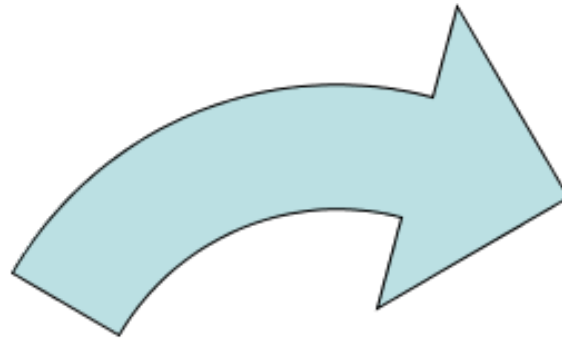
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Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, **they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives**, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

Proverbs 14:1 NKJV

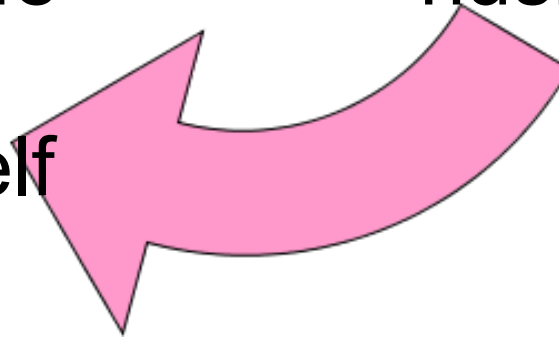
The wise woman builds her house, But the foolish pulls it down with her hands.

Ephesians 5:33

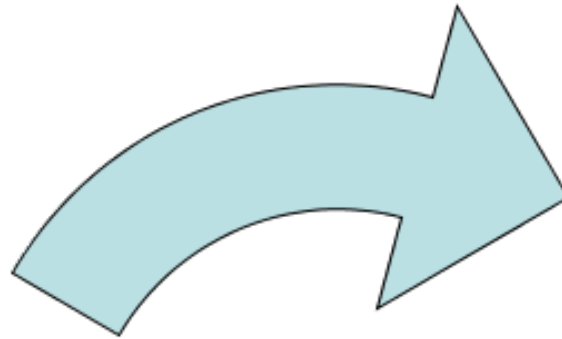


Husband
s, love
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own wife
as
yourself

Wives,
respect
your
husband

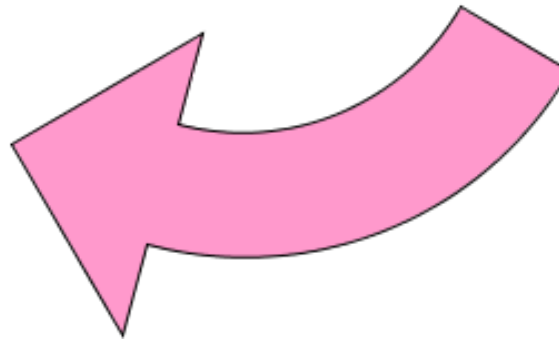


RIGHT!

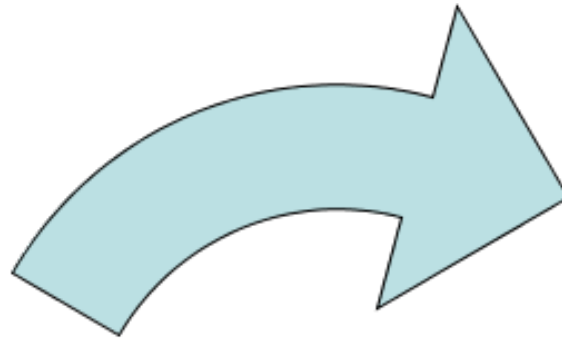


Love

Resp
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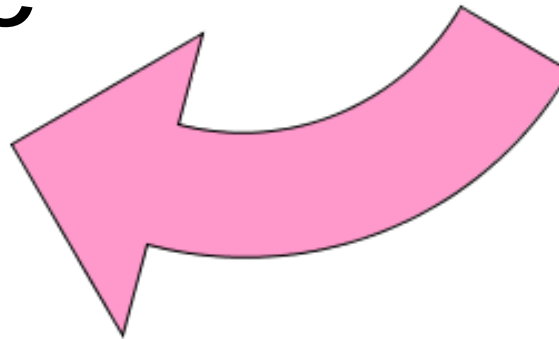


WRONG!

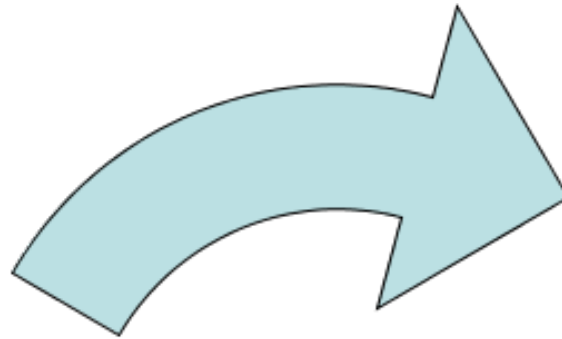


Lack
of
Love

Disre
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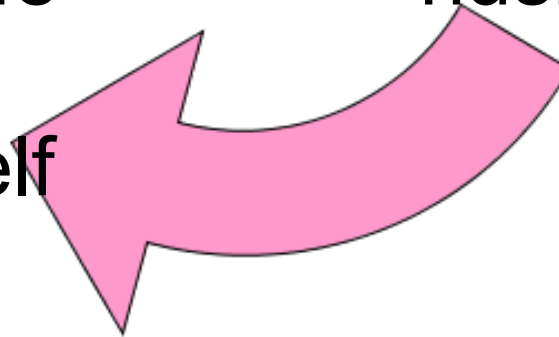


Are these Conditional Commands?



Husband
s, love
your
own wife
as
yourself

Wives,
respect
your
husband



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- The roles are intended to fulfill each other's greatest emotional needs
 - It addresses each spouse's greatest need

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 - It addresses each spouse's greatest fear

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 - It addresses each spouse's greatest need
 - It addresses each spouse's greatest fear
 - It produces a wonderfully fulfilling and mutually reinforcing home

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- The commands correct each spouse's personal inclinations
 - We tend to expect what we need and give what we need

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 - We naturally withhold what the other needs when we do not get what we need
 - We tend to view disagreement as an attack on our greatest need
 - Example - Luke 10:38-42

Luke 10:38-42 NKJV

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "**Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.**"

Luke 10:38-42 NKJV

40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." 41 **And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."**

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 - Our obedience reflects our love and respect for Jesus
 - We correct our mistakes as an act of repentance
 - We cannot excuse ourselves based on our spouse's failings

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 - Because each spouse has a spirit made in the image of God
 - Because each spouse is responsible to God for their role
 - Because God commanded it

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 - They consider how their words and deeds may affect their spouse

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 - They don't attempt to defend actions or words that were misinterpreted

Love and Respect

- The wise couple recognizes their differences and uses that knowledge to provide what their spouse needs
 - They consider how their words and deeds may affect their spouse
 - They guard against the natural inclination to cut off the needs of their spouse
 - They interpret difficulties as a possible alarm that their spouses needs are not being met
 - They don't attempt to defend actions or words that were misinterpreted
 - Instead, they ask for help in communicating what they intend

The Wife's Role in Marriage

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- She submits to and respects her husband (Col. 3:18-19; 1 Pet. 3:1-6; Eph. 5:22-33)
- In this role, she can powerfully influence her husband and her home for good (1 Pet. 3:1-3; Prov. 14:1)

God's way is the
best way!