

Both man and woman were created in God's image; therefore we are equal in how God purposed for us, and we both are as important to Him. This being said, God has also created us with different roles.

For example, He has decreed that the woman would be the one giving birth to children, and has as well given man the responsibility to be the provider and protector of his family. Paul in Gal 3:28 said it this way: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." So, in God's intent for His creation, we all have the duty to honor Him in abiding by His will.

The roles of both woman and man in God's design require that an order of responsibility be established, and this is how God designed it, as 1Cor 11:3 says: "But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman *is* man, and the head of Christ *is* God." This isn't meant to degrade the role of woman nor does it allow man to become a dictator and an abuser. On the contrary, greater responsibility does a man face in leading his family.

True leadership entails the necessity to understand that in the end, God is our One and only true source of leadership.

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God has established the woman as the nurturer, the one He equipped to be not only a role model for her children, but as well a leader in her household. That's why Prov 31:27 says, "She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness." In essence, God has equipped the woman to feel and understand family life at a deeper level that the man.

The apostle Peter in 1 Peter 3:1 said, "Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives." As such, the woman oftentimes is a leader in the ways of the Lord to inspire her family. Through her attitude and submission to God's will and path for her life, she generates a powerful and positive impact on her husband and children.

The apostle Paul in Eph 5:25 gave this command to men with regards to their wives: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her." That represents not simply a suggestion, but an order so that the wife and mother is truly loved, valued and honored for her role in the family.

After all, didn't God choose the woman to carry and give birth to our Savior and Lord?

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The greatest blessing husbands and wives can achieve is to be united in spirit in Christ Jesus. Proverbs 31 describes at length the ideal and honorable role of the wife. It says: Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth *is* far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her." (Prov 31:10-11)

In essence, the value of the woman in marriage goes beyond anything man can desire for this life, and both will only find true peace and joy if they submit to our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. That's why Paul in Gal 5:22 said, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness."

The story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:48-32, exemplifies the importance of putting our priorities where it matters most. Martha criticized Mary for not helping her in the kitchen, as Mary was intent to listen to the words of Jesus. Jesus' answer was, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41-42)

In other words, just as with the man, the woman must be submitted to the Lord, and thus the importance to be steadfast in studying God's Word!

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