

# **“What’s a Nice Girl Like Me Doing in a Marriage Like This?”**

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## **I. How Do Many Women Enter Marriage?**

### **A. Idealisms that are not Realistic**

1. Books
2. Movies
3. Fairytales

### **B. Dreaming of Perfect Marriage**

1. Anticipate
2. Plan all details before meeting Mr. Right

### **C. Not Understanding...**

1. Who they are
2. How God made them
3. For what and For whom they were made
4. How to conduct themselves within God-given roles as wife

None of us can change the past. Good news: From this moment on, we can commit ourselves to God so that we can move forward, allowing God to change us from the inside out, determined to be the women God wants and designed us to be.

Joel 2:25 – “ I will restore to you the years the locust have eaten...” KJV.

## **II. What Do We Learn about Woman from the Book of Genesis?**

### **A. One of our many roles: to be a helper**

1. Not good for man to be alone; Gen. 2:18
2. No suitable helper for Adam; Gen. 2:20

### **B. How We Were Created: Gen. 2:7, 21-23**

1. Order – Adam was created first
2. Adam’s authority over Eve
  - a. Accepts responsibility for her, v. 22
  - b. He names her, v. 23

### **C. Adam & Eve’s Relationship – An earthly representation of Christ and His Church**

1. Jesus referred to as 2<sup>nd</sup> or last Adam; I Cor. 15:45

2. Adam's sleep (picture of death) brings forth bride
3. Christ's Death (temporary sleep) Birth of Church

If you are a child of God, you are the Bride of Christ. Because of this, our earthly marriage has to be so much more than, "What's in this for me?" The way we conduct ourselves within our marriage, whether the marriage be amazing, average or tremendously difficult, shows the world where our hope lies. As a Bride of Christ, we must act accordingly.

I Cor. 11:8-9 – We were created for man!

Gen. 2:24 – Marriage relationship should take priority over every other earthly relationship.

### III. Three Primary Relationships of Scripture

#### A. Man and God, Genesis 2:8-9, 16-17

1. Preeminent relationship
2. Permanent and eternal

#### B. Husband and Wife; Gen. 2:24

1. Permanent until death: Leave, cleave, one flesh
2. Intimacy shared with no other earthly human being

#### C. Parents and Children

1. Not permanent or eternal in regard to responsibility
2. Continues until Child marries
  - a. They leave, cleave and are one flesh with spouse
  - b. Marital problems arise from misunderstanding this
  - c. In-law issues

### IV. What if We Violate Primary/Preeminent Relationship?

#### A. Eve is Making Her Choice – Gen. 3:1-4

1. Serpent lying; Gen. 2:17
2. He's still lying
3. Renew mind daily; Rom. 12:2

#### B. Things Will Never be the Same

1. Covering and Hiding; Gen. 3:7-8
2. Adam no longer the protector; the accuser; v. 9-12

Their relationship is in conflict because their primary relationship is not right. They did not choose God. Marriages are falling apart all over the place because we are so far from our preeminent relationship to God.

- C. The Woman's Consequence; Gen. 3:16
  - 1. The Pain of Childbirth Greatly Multiplied
  - 2. Pain in Bringing Up Children
  - 3. Our husbands Shall Rule Over Us
  - 4. Our "Desire" Shall be for Our Husband
    - a. Passionate desire – not a bad thing
    - b. "Teshuwqah" #8669 – desire, longing, stretching after
      - i. Root word – "shuwq" #7783 – to run after; to overflow in order to overtake
      - ii. Used 3 times in OT – Gen. 3:16
      - iii. Gen. 4:6-7 – sin as a lion crouching down ready to overtake
      - iv. Song of Sol. 7:10 – physical desire/passion – Doesn't fit the other two

"Your desire shall be for your husband **and** he will rule over you."

- c. God never said this until after the fall; He never had to.

This is the curse...for our entire earthly life we will have an inner struggle, a natural bent to run over our husbands and take charge. To understand this actually sets us free...sets us free to recognize the sin and choose the path of holiness God has laid before us.

## V. Submission

A. Why? Ephesians 5:22-24

- 1. God mandated it
- 2. Husbands head of wife **AS** Christ head of Church.

B. What? Ephesians

- 1. Dissipation = controlled – by and filled with the Holy Spirit – Eph. 5: 15-18
- 2. As Unto the Lord; Eph. 5:22
  - a. Hupotasso #G5293 – subject, submit
    - i. Military term – rank myself under, to bring under subjection my desires or plans in subjection to another; to place in proper order
    - ii. Col. 3:18 – "as if fitting" – same Gk. Word – submission is our duty, our proper behavior

C. How? I Peter 3:1 – "...in the same way..."

1. Servants: submissive and respectful; I Pet. 2:18
  - a. I'm not a servant
  - b. Rom. 6:16-18
  - c. Unreasonable – “skolios” #G4646 – crooked, warped, wicked - scoliosis
2. We obey to please our Master; I Pet. 2:19-20
3. We are called to Suffer; v. 21
  - a. Jesus is our example – “Huppogramos” #5261 – a copy for imitation; easy to follow
    - i. v. 22 – No deceit found in His mouth, no guile; “dolos” - #1388 – crafty, trick, decoy
    - ii. v. 23 – Jesus did not revile in return

“We must quit bending the Word to suit our situation. It is we who must be bent to that Word, our necks that must bow under the yoke.”

-Elisabeth Elliot

- iii. v. 23 – Jesus kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously
    - iv. v. 24 – Jesus bore our sins on His body on the cross
4. Submit to Disobedient Husbands – 3:1 – “apeitheo” #544- disobedience is continual; withholding belief and obedience; habitual
5. Submissive Behavior; 3:2
  - a. Chaste – “hagnos” #53 – innocent, modest, pure, reverence, awe
  - b. Behavior – “anastrophe” #391 – one’s manner of life or conduct

Submission is a heart attitude – it has nothing to do with our husband.

“You know how well you are doing at becoming a servant, by the way you act when you are treated like one.” -Author unknown

6. Gentle and Quiet Spirit, v. 3-4
  - a. Gentle – “Praus” #4239 – meek, humble; accepting everything as coming from God and knowing that it is good; no murmuring, complaining or disputing
  - b. Quiet – “hesuchios” #2272 – undisturbed, peaceable; keeping one’s seat; a tranquility arising from within and not dependent upon circumstances

The terms are critical for us to understand and develop, as God's Word tells us that this is the behavior in which our disobedient husbands are to be won. Whatever our situation, we need to see this as coming from God.

All that we go through within our marriages is not about our husband, believe it or not, though it may sure seem like it. It is God's process of molding and making us into a beautiful image of Jesus Christ. And Jesus will use whatever and whomever He desires to make that transformation.

Marriage is a proving ground for my loyalty to Christ. Regardless of what my husband may say or do, I am responsible to Christ for my words, deeds, actions, motives and thoughts.

"A marriage without regrets means that when your life is over, and you stand before God, you will have no regrets in the way you obeyed the Lord within your marriage."

-Kay Arthur