

“Quiet Talks On Marriage”

Session V

The Biblical Role Of The Wife:

"How Can I Be The Wife God Wants Me To Be?"

Introduction:

I think you would agree that our last discussion about the “Five Priorities of Life” was of great value!

“Jesus Christ” → “Marriage Partner” → “Children” → “Church” → Work”!

From these “Five Priorities” we established that the second most important thing in my life as a married person is “My Marriage Partner”!

In this session, which is our last session in these “Quiet Talks”, I want to talk with you **Wives** about your “role” in your marriage – your “Biblical responsibilities”.

This is a very debated issue! The fact is . . . what the Bible teaches about being a wife is very offensive to many people! So, let me simply say that my desire is to examine what the Scriptures say to a Christian woman and let those truths stand for themselves. I think you know that my personal belief is that the Word of God is the source of God’s truth about all of life . . . and, that building life on the foundation of Biblical truth is the way to find lasting personal happiness! Knowing God’s truth brings freedom, stability, and delight to each of our lives! This is equally true, for a man, and for a woman!

--So, Wives, what are the “Guidelines” given to you in God’s Word? As we saw in our previous discussion about the “Husband”, while many things are said to women in the Bible, God summarizes His truth to the “Wife” in two basic principles.

I. The Wife Is Commanded To “_____” To Her Husband!

Wow! We jumped right into the controversy, didn’t we? But, before we allow the word “submit” to close the door on any consideration of what the Bible means by using that word, let’s let the Bible speak for itself!

"Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the Church, He Himself being the Savior of the Body. But as the Church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything."

Ephesians 5:22-24

A. The "Command": Is clearly stated here!

"Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord."

-- Look at the Key Words In these verses that will help us understand the command.

1. "**Be Subject**" = a Gk. word that means "to place in an orderly fashion **under**".

→ Stated in reverse: "to **place under** in an orderly fashion".

--Originally, this word showed one's relationship to superiors, either compulsory or voluntary "**submission**".

--The meaning then is, "*To place yourself in an orderly fashion under someone, either voluntarily or by compulsion!*"

2. "**Head**" = a Greek word that means: "the head, the top, the superior."

--This is the designation of the "position" of authority.

--This same word is used earlier in this letter, Eph. 1:22, where the Apostle Paul describes Jesus Christ's authority over the Church:

"And He put all things in subjection under His feet (Jesus Christ), and gave Him as head over all things to the church."

--No Christian will argue with the fact that Jesus Christ is "**head**" over His Body, the Church → it is His position of authority!

--In a similar way, by the use of this same word, the "husband" is designated as "**head**" over his wife in the family! This is not a distinction in "value", but a designation of "position" – he is to be the "leader"!

3. "**In Everything**" →

"But as the Church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything."

--This word defines the **extent** of the wife's submission -- it is to be in "everything" – it is to be the "pattern" or "habit" of the marriage!

--I know that this sounds "wrong" or "unreasonable" or "old fashioned"! But, again, I ask that we hear the Word of God until we understand its true meaning!

--Is this **not** a command to "blind obedience" – that a wife must "obey" her husband, no matter what he might demand – that she has no "voice" no "say" in the family! "Certainly not!" That would open the door to suggesting that the Bible teaches that a wife must "obey" a husband who might ask her to disobey God -- to sin?

****Submission never means a wife is to commit "sin"!**

B. The "Meaning": What then is "Submission"?

--Let me suggest two things:

1. "Submission" is an "_____":

a. This Biblical "attitude" is expressed by the statement: "I recognize my husband to be the **"God-appointed leader"** in our marriage and family."

--It is the attitude: "*I agree with God – He has given me a **'leader'**!"*

→ God "appoints" the husband with "His" authority!

→ God will hold the husband "responsible" for "His" leadership!

b. This Biblical "attitude" is expressed by the statement: "I believe God will **"use"** my husband to give **"guidance"** to our marriage and family."

→ Key: God "directs" through the leadership of the husband.

→ God will hold the wife "responsible" for her cooperation with his leadership!

2. "Submission" is a "_____":

a. This Biblical choice" is expressed by the statement:

"I **choose** to allow my husband to make the "final" decisions for our family."

--Note: A Christian husband should be "wise" enough to ask his wife's opinion **before** he makes a final decision! In this way, his wife is directly involved in every major decision! This underscores the importance of a husband "learning to listen" to his wife's concerns!

b. This Biblical "choice" is expressed by the statement:

"I **choose** to allow God to be the "point of pressure" in my husband's life -- God will correct him when he is wrong!"

--Note: There are times when a wife can recognize that her husband is making a "poor" or "wrong" decision, but he is **unwilling to listen** to her counsel or opinion. Remember, God is working for long-term changes in the husband. God often "corrects" a man by **failure**!

Wives, hear these crucial words of Biblical wisdom:

****Make the "choice" to let God correct your husband by "failure" if your husband refuses to let you be his "helper"!**

--Note: A husband will often **blame** his wife when he makes a wrong decision if she has been "on his back" about the decision – if she has attempted to be the "point of pressure"! If she "pressures" him

to make the decision she wants, and things don't go well, she will get "caught in the middle" – **he will blame her for the failure!**

--Just the opposite happens when a wife decides to "trust" what God is doing **by** "submitting" → this decision allows God to be "the point of pressure"; and, you will not get caught "in the middle" . . . **he will not be able to blame his "failure" on you . . . he will be forced to take personal responsibility – he will be forced to deal with God!!!**

3. Summary: Biblical "submission" is part of a Christian wife's **faith!** She "**believes**" what God says about her husband! She trusts God to use him as He has promised -- to bring "guidance" and "protection" to the family! Her "submission" to her husband is not based on her thinking or her "feelings", but is based on her "**trust**" in God!

****Biblical submission is a step of "faith" and "obedience"!**

C. The "**Results**": What Will Happen When She Obeys God?

--Notice "six" powerful results:

1. The wife will " _____ "!

--Since "submission" requires faith, every woman who is learning "submission" will be growing in her faith!

"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

Hebrews 11:6

2. The wife will experience " _____ "!

--Inward, personal "peace" always comes as the by-product of faith. So, rather than being controlled by anxiety or anger, God's "peace" will control her heart as she "trusts" God!

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, not let it be fearful." John 14:27

3. The wife will be **protected** from a " _____ of _____ "!

--Her choice to be in "submission" will stop the progression of Satan's "weapons":

→When she feels that her husband is not "listening" to her opinions or concerns, she can "cast this **CARE** or **ANXIETY** upon the Lord" and experience the "**Peace**" that God is going to work in her husband's life!

→Her "Hurt" will be cast upon the Lord, rather than allowing it to move to "Anger", to a "Wounded Spirit", and finally to a "Root of Bitterness"!

4. The Husband will come under “ _____ ”!
 --The wife's "submission" will free God to deal with the husband -- even when he makes poor or wrong decisions! God will be the “point of pressure” to discipline and correct him!
5. The Husband will be **attracted** to the "inner spirit" of “ _____ ” in his wife who is controlled by the Holy Spirit!
 --A woman's true “attractiveness” is brought out by a spirit of submission! This is not “weakness”; it is “strength”! How different from our “world” which teaches that “strength” for a woman is “independence” → even within marriage!
 --The “peace” of God controlling her inner spirit will move outward through her countenance producing “inner beauty” – true “beauty” that flows from within!
6. The children will see proper “ _____ ” in the home!
 --The “spirit” of submission will allow the children to see real “femininity” in the wife and “masculinity” in the husband!

D. Two Helpful Observations:

1. God does not ask a wife to do something He has not asked the husband to do!

-- Many women "object" to the teaching of “submission” -- because they think God is asking them to do something He has not asked men to do! They say, “I have to submit to my husband, but God doesn't say anything to my husband!”

-- This statement is wrong! God does not ask the wife to do anything that He has not **already** instructed the husband to do!

a. The Passage: In I Corinthians 11:3, God gives His structure of “authority” and “submission”. This “structure” is given to “woman”, to “man”, and to “Christ”, Himself! Listen to these words,

“But I want you to understand that Christ is ‘head’ of every man, and the man is ‘head’ of a woman, and God is the ‘head’ of Christ.”

--So, God's Design For “**Authority**” =

“**God**” the “Head” of →

“**Christ**” the “Head” of →

“**Man**” the “head” of →

“**Woman**”

b. Notice: Man has a “**Head**” → the Lord Jesus Christ!

--So, ****Both man and woman have a "head"!**
****Both man and woman have a "leader"!**
--Someone to "submit" to in life!

--A second "Helpful Observation":

2. God's Word Gives Every Wife The "Key" To Submission:

--Please Note: The "**command**" to "submit" is given in Ephesians 5:**22**.
The "**key**" to submission is given in Ephesians 5:**33**!

a. Listen to The Passage: Ephesians 5:33.

*" . . . and let the wife see to it that she **respects** her husband."*

--The "Key" Word = "Respect"

--This Greek word = phobeo.

--In its positive usage, it means to "**reverence**" or to "**fear**" out of respect.

b. From this "Key" word, we draw The Principle:

--A Christian wife is to "reverence" or "respect" her husband.

--A Christian wife is to "fear" **disobedience** to God's command to "submit" to her husband!

c. Notice A Helpful Progression: This describes the development of a wife's "attitude" toward her husband.

Positive

"Respect" → "Emotional Feelings" → "Submission" → God's will!

-- Notice how "respect" for the husband is the foundation of what God asks a woman to do!

--So, **Positive**

"Respect" → "Emotional Feeling" → "Submission" → God's will!

--**But here is a serious "Warning":**

Notice what happens when a woman loses "respect" for her husband.

**"No Respect" → "No Emotional Feeling" → "No Submission" →
"Rebellion"! ("An Independent Spirit" takes over!)**

--Helpful Question: Over the years many wives have asked the question: "*Pastor, Jerry, how do you "respect" a man you don't respect?*" My answer: "*You can't!*" That would require "living a lie"! Admit you cannot honestly "**respect**" him, but "**respect**" **God!** The problem is that your focus is on your husband. Make God your focus! Trust what God wants to do in your husband – have "**respect**" for that!

--Warning: All Satan has to do to destroy your marriage is to keep your **focus** on your husband – make God your “**focus**” of **faith**!

So, here we have the first command given to a Christian wife about her relationship with her Husband → An “Attitude of Submission” → Honoring God’s “structure” for the family!

--Secondly, we see . . .

II. The Wife Must Develop “ _____ ”!

*"In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands, so that even if any of them are **disobedient to the word**, they may be won without a word by **the behavior** of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. And let not your adornment be merely external -- braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God."*
I Peter 3:1-4

A. Peter Gives A Powerful " _____ ":

One of the most exciting "promises" of God's Word is given in the first verse of this chapter. The promise is that a wife's Godly "**behavior**" can be a powerful influence in her husband's life! Listen again,

*" . . . you wives, be 'submissive' to your own husbands, so that even if any of them are **disobedient to the word**, they may be 'won' without a word by **the behavior** of their wives . . ."*
I Peter 3:1

1. In these verses, we see a Family Situation: A wife is married to a man who is "disobedient" to the Word. The wife desires to see her husband "won" to the Word. She wants her husband to be "right" with God!
2. The Question is: How does this happen? How does she see him "won" to the Word? Certainly she has been and is presently "praying" for him. But is anything else involved?
3. The Answer is "Yes"! →: Beyond her prayer, the Scripture focuses on her "**behavior**" → She "wins" him "**without a word**"!

". . . Even if any of them are disobedient to the Word, they may be won . . . without a word." I Peter 3:1

- Note: Most wives attempt to "win" their husbands to Word by using "words"!
- Note: Their "words", no matter how sincere, will only drive their husband away from the Lord! He hears them as "pressure" and "manipulation"!
- Note: Her "motivation" is right → she wants to see spiritual change!

But, her “methodology” is often wrong → it is the wrong approach!
→She thinks that her “Words” will be effective in changing him . . .
in helping him do the right thing!
→**But**, not only is that approach ineffective, it is harmful!

4. Give careful attention to the **Solution**: God's way to “**win**” the husband is totally different from a wife's “human” or “natural” thinking. (See Isaiah 55:8)

****God instructs the wife to focus on her “behavior!” (Not “words!”)**

“ . . . they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives.”

I Peter 3:1

5. What is the Promise? A wife's Godly “behavior” is **powerful** when it is a step of personal “faith”!
--It has the power to “**win**” the husband!
--Her **behavior** becomes a major part in what God wants to do! How often we hear the testimony of a man who was “saved” or “restored” to Christ by the “**behavior**” of his wife!
--This is so important that Peter elaborates on the specifics of her “behavior”! He wants to be sure that it is fully understood!

What does this “look like” in daily life?

B. Peter’s Description Of A Christian Wife’s Powerful “_____”!

*“In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands, so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives . . . **as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior**. And let not **your adornment** be merely external -- braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but **let it be the hidden person of the heart**, with the imperishable quality of a **gentle and quiet spirit**, which is precious in the sight of God.”* I Peter 3:1-4

--Notice the “specific”, the “exact”, instructions given by God through Peter.

Let’s look at each principle:

--Before we list them, let me give the same admonition to you “Wives” that I gave your “Husbands” in our previous discussion → Each of these “Principles” is extremely important and powerful. Please give them full consideration!

--The first “Principle” Peter elaborates on is:

1. No “_____”:

--We’ve mentioned it, but let’s take it further!

a. The context of this verse is the issue of a wife’s “submission” to her husband

“ . . .you wives, be submissive to your own husbands . . . ”

--We have already seen that Biblical “submission” is primarily an “**attitude**”

→ the attitude “respect” a wife is to show her husband.

- One of the primary ways this comes out in a marriage is in “words” – “what” and “how” we say things to each other -- “Verbal Abuse”!
- b. **"Verbal Abuse"** is one of the most common "**sins**" that a Christian wife can commit against her husband!
 --It is a “sin” because it grows out of “anger” → “angry” words which are not controlled by the Holy Spirit; it is a “**sin**”!
- c. **"Verbal Abuse"** is the sinful use of the “tongue” to cause a Wounded Spirit in another person.
 --Remember our discussion of Proverbs 12:18?
*“There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword,
 But the tongue of the wise brings healing.”*
 --This verse describes how “Verbal Abuse” does lasting damage to a relationship over time -- the tongue can be used like a “**sword**” -- to hurt and to kill!
- d. **"Verbal Abuse"** is unavoidable when a Christian is not "walking by the Spirit", Gal. 5:16. The sinful "deeds of the flesh" will control us -- "enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions," Gal. 5:20.

The second “Principle” Peter elaborates on is:

2. No " _____ ":

- a. Peter addresses this danger specifically in this second verse,
*“. . . as they (the husband) observe your **chaste** and **respectful** behavior.”*
- b. When a wife's relationship with her husband is not what it needs to be, she will be tempted to turn her emotional attention, or even her physical attention, to another man or relationship!
- c. This "outside" interest or relationship can develop in many ways, in many places, even in the Church! Without realizing what is happening, a wife can begin to focus her attention on a man who is “what she wishes” her husband would be, especially “spiritually” – a man who loves God; or “emotionally” – a man who treats his wife in a sensitive and tender way!
- d. A Christian wife "sins" against her marriage when she allows herself to enter into any “spiritual”, “emotional”, or “physical” relationship outside her marriage that takes the place of her husband!
 --Let me pause just a minute: “Wives”, you know the “sin” of wrong physical relationship outside of your marriage . . . But, have you realized the danger of wrong “spiritual” or “emotional” relationship with another man?

Warning: Our culture allows for interactions between men and women that are considered “innocent”, but are often the first step away from “faithfulness” to our marriages!!!

--This is an area where a Christian wife must be hard with herself. This is so “subtle” that many women don’t even know it is taking place, until it has taken control. If any relationship causes you to stop being “in” God’s Word, before you start your day, be warned!!!

The third “Principle” Peter elaborates on is:

3. The Need to Develop " _____ ":

“And let not your adornment be merely external -- braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart.” 1 Pet. 3:4

a. Verse four says that a wife's **power** does not rest in the "external" adornments of her life – in other words, the “way she looks”!
It says . . . like "dresses" . . . or "jewelry" . . . or "braiding the hair";

--but, her true “Power” in the "**hidden person of the heart**”!

How different this is from the world in which we live – a world that places so much emphasis and pressure on “how” a woman looks!

This “pressure” begins early in most girls’ lives and remains with her for a lifetime!

b. Peter says → Her **power** rests in her "**inner beauty**”!

--What a powerful and freeing truth this is!

Scripture says that every woman can have "inner beauty”!

-- This "inner beauty" is actually the greatest source of true "outer beauty”!

c. What is "**Inner Beauty**”?

--It is the attractiveness and appeal of a woman when she is controlled by the love of Jesus Christ. This happens when she knows “who” she is in Christ and “**what**” He thinks about her!

--His attractiveness becomes her attractiveness!

****Every Christian woman has the “beauty” of Christ within her!**

d. Special Note: This is a Christian wife's "**secret weapon**”!

--The “world” wants us to “fight” with its weapons!

--The Christians “power”, on every level of life, rests in who Christ is!

e. How does a Christian woman develop "inner beauty”?

1) "**Inner beauty**" is Christ Himself! To **see** Him is to see the most attractive Person who lives! So, as obvious as it might seem . . .

****Spending time with Christ in His Word enables us to see Him and others to see Him in us! (II Corinthians 3:18)**

2) "**Inner beauty**" is the natural by-product of spiritual growth.

Jesus said in John 14:27,

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, not let it be fearful."

****The "peace" of God, ruling in the heart, releases "inner beauty"!**

3) "**Inner beauty**" is the result of "**walking by the Spirit**", Galatians 5:16, which produces the "**fruit of the Spirit**", Galatians 5:22-23.

→ "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

f. **In Summary:** Here is a "balancing" statement about beauty → There is nothing sinful about a Christian wife dressing attractively and appropriately to the glory of God! But, this is not the source of her **power** and **appeal**! Her true power is the "**hidden person**" deep within her heart! It is the **inner beauty** of Christ flowing through her!

→ Years ago I talked with a couple where the wife had been a major college "Homecoming Queen" and "Cheerleader". When I discussed this principle of "Inner Beauty" with them, she wept and said, "Pastor, Jerry, I have been taught all my life to focus on outward beauty; I don't think I have any inward beauty!"

→ Christian wife, there is nothing wrong with outward beauty -- unless it is the only beauty you have . . . or, unless it is the only beauty you "value"! Do you have "inward beauty" flowing from "the hidden person of the heart?"

→ Every Christian woman can have the "beauty" of Christ as the "hidden secret" of her life!

--The fourth "Principle" Peter elaborates on is:

4. Develop a " and **Spirit**":

*“ . . .with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit,
which is precious in the sight of God.”* I Peter 1:4

- a. This verse talks about an "**imperishable quality**"-- a "**gentle**" and "**quiet**" spirit!
 - An "**imperishable**" quality is something that never loses its quality or power! It is never affected by age!
 - A "**gentle**" and "**quiet**" spirit **never** loses its power!
- b. Question: "What did your husband see in you in **the beginning** of your relationship – when you were dating or first married?"
 - Did he see a "gentle" and "quiet" spirit?
- c. Question: "What does he see **now**?"
 - "What does he come home to each day?"
 - "When he thinks of you, what comes to his mind?"

--This passage gives us a great . . .

C. The Biblical "Illustration": "Sarah", wife of Abraham.

1. To illustrate the principle of "**powerful behavior**" on the part of a wife, Peter is led by the Holy Spirit to the Old Testament story of Abraham and Sarah.
2. Peter calls Sarah a "holy" woman who "hoped in God" -- she had a personal walk with God -- a walk of faith!
3. Sarah also has a spirit of "submission" toward her husband.

*"For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to **adorn themselves**, being submissive to their own husbands."*
I Peter 3:5-6

 - Note: "Sarah" was a godly woman because she "clothed" herself with a spirit of "submission"!
4. What was the result in Sarah's life? Was her submissive "attitude" and "behavior" **powerful**? Did she have **inner beauty**?
 - a. In Genesis 12, Abraham left the "land of Canaan" because of a famine and went into Egypt. As they came into Egypt, Abraham asked Sarah to "lie" about him -- "Say that you are my sister!" Why did Abraham ask Sarah to tell a lie? Sarah was so "beautiful" that he feared the Egyptian Pharaoh would kill him and take her! (Genesis 12:10-20)

- b. How old was Sarah when this happened? She was **65 years old!** Genesis 12:4 reveals that Abraham was 75 at this time, so he was 10 years older than his wife, Sarah.
- c. In Genesis 20, the same thing happened again! Abraham decided to go into Philistia to settle in the city of "Gerar" near King Abimelech. In fear that Abimelech would take Sarah away from him, he deceived the King, saying, "She is my sister." Only by God's a gracious intervention did Abraham escape from this serious deception and get Sarah back unharmed!
- d. How old was Sarah when this happened? She was **89 years old!**
(See Genesis 17:1 where Abraham was 99)
- How do you explain her "beauty" being so great at the ages of **65** and **89**?
--A "beauty" that other men wanted to take her at that age?
- The only adequate answer is to suggest that what Peter is saying is: Sarah had discovered the real secret of "ageless beauty" -- Sarah had **inner beauty!** It is powerful at any age!

D. A Personal "Illustration": The "Big" Man and "Little" Woman.

One of the largest men ever to visit my office was brought by his wife -- a very small woman. She had called and made the appointment for them. I had never met them. When he came in my door (he could barely come in the door!) he looked down at me and in a forceful voice said, "I guess you know I am not here because I want to be! My wife made me come!" (I wondered how that "little" woman could make that "big" man do anything!) Then he continued to speak down to me in anger, "You have ten minutes -- then I am leaving!" I said, "That's fine. Just give me the ten minutes!" So, he sat down beside his wife. For five minutes, I listened and talked to her. Then, for five minutes, I listened and talked to him. At the end of ten minutes, I asked if he wanted to stay -- he stayed for the next two hours!

Why did he stay? His thinking was that since his wife had arranged the appointment, all I would do is take her side in marital problems, and spend all my time telling him what he was doing wrong! Perhaps his wife was expecting the same thing! But, because I listened to both of them, I knew that **both** were at fault in their marriage! The husband stayed because I didn't blame him with everything!

I confronted the wife with her side of the problem -- although she was a "little" woman, she had a "big" mouth. And she knew how to use her words like to sword to bring deep hurt and anger -- even though she was attempting to do the right thing! She was a Christian, but Jesus Christ was not in control of her tongue! She was guilty of constant "verbal abuse"! Her "words" were driving her husband away! But, I must compliment this

wife. When I confronted her about this "sin" in her life as a Christian, she readily "confessed" it -- she was willing to admit how damaging "verbal abuse" had been to her husband.

Well, the husband could not believe what he was seeing! His wife was accepting her part in their problems! And when he saw her openness and honesty, he changed his whole attitude and began to be open and honest about his failures in their relationship! Then the wife couldn't believe what she was hearing and seeing!

Not only did the couple stay for more than two hours that day, they continued to come in the future. Toward the end of my counseling with them, this huge man said something I will never forget. He said, "You know, when my wife was **on my back**, I refused to listen to her or to God! But, when she **got off my back, God got on it!**" He had to deal with God at that point -- His wife was no longer in God's way -- she was now cooperating with God! God was now the "point of pressure" in her husband's life!

E. What are the "Consequences" for Failure:

-- What Happens When A Wife Does Not Develop "Inner Beauty"?

1. She will progressively " **her husband** !"
--Her inner "hurt" and "bitterness" will cause her to lose her "inner beauty"!
There is no real "beauty" in a **bitter woman!**
2. She will open her life to "**physical** "!
--Focus on "outward beauty" increases the demand for "physical attention" which so often opens the door for wrong relationships!
--She will also be found at places where she should not be, doing things she should not be doing, and being exposed to people who bring danger!
3. She will open her life to "**spiritual** "!
--Her "bitterness" will bring spiritual "Blindness" – she will not discern what is true or best → for herself or her children!
--She will often be attracted to follow wrong spiritual leaders and movements.
4. She will weaken or lose her " "!
--In her "family" → her children will not learn this principle of "inner beauty" to benefit their future life.
--This will be true in the "Church" and the "Community"!

Conclusions

In these last two discussions, we have seen God's guidelines for the husband and wife:

--God gives two commands to the husband.

--He gives two commands to the wife.

A. God "instructs" the Husband:

1. To **"love"** his wife → unconditionally and sacrificially!
--This "love" is provided by Christ living in him!
2. To **"understand"** his wife → to have an "intimate awareness" of her true needs!
--This "understanding" is provided by practicing "practical steps" of "Listening"!
****Nothing conforms a man to the "image of Christ" more than learning to "love" his wife!**

B. God "instructs" the Wife:

1. To **"submit"** to her husband → a "attitude" based on "faith" structure of the family!
--This "submission" is enabled by Christ living in her!
2. To focus on **"inner beauty"** → to recognize the "secret" of her inner "influence"!
--This "inner beauty" is the "hidden person" of her "heart" producing a "gentle" and "quiet" spirit!
****Nothing conforms a woman to the "image of Christ" more than a willing attitude of "submission" to her husband!**

Heavenly Father, I thank you for the privilege I have enjoyed in sharing Your "truth" with this couple, individual, or group -- those who have demonstrated a "hunger" for your help!

Father, I claim the clear promise of Your Word:

--Your Word in **Psalm 119:105,**

"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path!"

O, Father, we do not know where to put our "feet" unless to show us the way!

--Your Word in **Psalm 119:130,**

"The unfolding of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple!"

O, Father, we indeed are "simple" -- live in 'darkness' and 'pride' of our stubborn rebellion against You! We can only 'stumble' around looking for the door to life, until **"the entrance of Your Word brings light!"** – until You "show us that Jesus Christ is 'the Door' to life!"

--Your Word in **John 10:10-11,** where Jesus speaks of His "sheep" who follow

Him: *"I am the Door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out find pasture (find 'satisfaction'). . . . I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly!"*

--Your Word in **James 4:6,**

"God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble!"

Find in us a "humble", "contrite" heart of "confession" and grant Your **"grace"** which "covers a multitude of sins!"

Heavenly Father, this is my prayer for these who have shared these conversations – for these who have become my "friends". . . In Jesus Name, Amen.