



Marriage Growth-Track

Week 3 - Day 4

Roles and responsibilities

By Jarrod & Katy Wilson

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do 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...

Ephesians 5:22-25

These verses identify our roles and responsibilities as husbands and wives as Christ originally intended in a God-ordained marriage. This is what we see in these verses:

- The husband is the head of the wife;
- Wives are to submit to their husbands;
- Husbands, in turn, are to love their wives as sacrificially as Christ loved the church

So, this is the ideal—a perfect world with perfect spouses, perfect circumstances, and even perfect children. But for so many of us, there are seasons when our marriage looks nothing like this simplified plan. Demanding jobs, children, in-laws are just the beginning of things that can upset this linear line-up.

One of the most familiar scenarios face is when the husband is overly committed to his job and the bulk of the parenting and home-related responsibilities fall on the wife. It doesn't start out this way; it just happens over time—incident by incident. The husband feels the overarching responsibility to provide well for his family and that usually translates into long hours at the office or on the road. In turn, the wife is usually the one 'in the trenches' with the children and the day-to-day operation of the home, even if she works outside the home. Before long, the kids see mom as the primary authority figure and dad as an occasional consultant.

Taken a step further, most wives wish their husband would make some of the household decisions and most husbands eventually begin to resent their second-class citizenry in their own home. The solution? An overhaul on the family dynamics.

It's usually not easy at first. There will probably be an occasional misunderstanding and

a bit of confusion (especially from what the kids have grown accustomed to), but it gets easier with practice and patience. It will probably be met with resistance and doubt from outsiders who don't understand or respect the design of marriage from God's perspective. That's okay. In fact, it's more than okay—it's great. God warns his followers not to be conformed by the world and to be weary of its outside pressures and expectations upon us, our marriages, and our families.

God's plan is the ideal in all things—especially the marriage relationship. All other designs fall short of honoring our Savior.

Discussion Questions:

1. How is Christ's Headship of the church an example to husbands?
2. How is the relationship of the church to Christ an example to wives?
3. How should both the husband and wife model themselves after Christ?

Action Steps:

1. Husband, prayerfully consider what steps you need to take to become the man God want's in your home.
2. Wives, prayerfully consider what steps you should take to become the wife God want's in your home.

Prayer:

"Father God, we love you and thank you for what you have given us. Please give us the ability to put our selfish desires away and put the needs of our family over our own. Help each of us to recognize our role in our marriages and to do what you have called each one of us to do. Help us lead and support each other in the days to come. Amen."

