

# Ladies Home Journey

## Role Call for Wives

*Mr. Mom* was a funny movie. It told the story of Jack and Caroline Butler, a middle class couple with three kids living in the suburbs of Detroit during the recession in the early 1980's. Jack is the breadwinner while Caroline is a stay-at-home mom. He loses his engineering job at an auto manufacturer. Caroline gets a job to tide them over and Jack has to be 'Mr. Mom' to the kids.

A lot of hilarious stuff happens but what is most interesting is how the movie ends. Even though Caroline is extremely successful at her job, it's because she has the insights and instincts of a wife and mother. In the end, when Jack gets his job back, Caroline is content to quit because she missed her role in the home as wife and mom.

Whether you work outside the home or not, you have a role to fulfill as a wife. What follows are some thoughts from an article written by Pastor Steve Carr (Calvary Chapel of Arroyo Grande). Pastor Steve has a great ministry, Covenant Keepers,<sup>1</sup> in which he teaches on the subject of marriage. We use his stuff for our premarriage counseling of couples who desire to be married.

Pastor Steve lists five exhortations about your role as a wife.

**#1 Be a helper.** The very first thing the Bible teaches concerning the role of a wife is that she is to be her husband's helper. After God created Adam He said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him" (Genesis 2:18). This word "helper" means *one who is sent to support and aid another*. It is important to note that if God says you are to be a helper, then it stands to reason that your husband needs help. From the beginning, God knew that man alone was incomplete in his abilities to parent and raise a family. He needed the help of another to reproduce and ultimately fulfill all the responsibilities within the family. Woman was created to be his perfect helper to fulfill a special design that only she could accomplish. God created woman with unique emotional, intellectual, and physical abilities to enable her to fulfill her husband's need for help.

**#2 Be a virtuous wife.** The Scripture asks the question "Who can find a virtuous wife?" Then it declares "For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her" (Proverbs 31:10,11). The word "virtuous" means *one who possesses*

---

<sup>1</sup> COVENANT KEEPERS © 2007 Covenant Keepers is a ministry of Pastor Steve Carr in Arroyo Grande, California. If you would like more information or have a question visit our web site at [www.covenantkeepers.org](http://www.covenantkeepers.org)

*strength and substance.* As you read the rest of Proverbs 31 you learn the characteristics that made her a woman of strength and substance and how these actions greatly affected her marriage. Notice that the writer, King Lemuel, acknowledges that her worth is far above rubies. The word "worth" literally means if you had to pay for this kind of service it would be incredibly expensive; far above the cost of rubies. Scripture therefore reveals that a virtuous wife is far from an inferior position in a marriage. You are worth more than his paycheck could sustain!

What creates this character, strength, and virtue in your life? The answer is found at the end of this chapter when King Lemuel states "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (Proverbs 31:30). Here is where the strength of character comes from; her personal reverence and fear of God. The fear of God is a necessary attitude required for any wife to have the strength of character that will enable her to lead a life pleasing to God. The fear of the Lord is what motivates us to "hate evil" and "perfect holiness" in our personal life (Proverbs 8:13) (Second Corinthians 7:1).

Do you want to become a virtuous wife? If you do, then you must surrender your life to Christ and ask Him to fill you with this reverent attitude toward the Father. Ask God for a hatred for that evil or sinful habit that captivates you at this moment. Begin to pursue God by seeking Him daily in His Word and petitioning Him for true holiness of heart. As you do, the strength of character and virtue you desire will naturally begin to change your life.

**#3** Be a prudent wife. Solomon declared that "Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord" (Proverbs 19:14). What does it mean to be a prudent wife? The word "prudent" means *one who is wise and understanding.*

Men and women differ radically in their make up. You are physically and hormonally different; you communicate differently; you have distinct social and sexual needs; and you both express love very differently. With all these differences you need lots of understanding of the man you married. As you gain this understanding of him you will naturally be brought closer to one another. If you reverse the process and insist on your way all the time, you only make the differences more apparent and widen the gap between you. Therefore, seek to understand your husband and what his real needs are, be willing to give to meet these needs; this is God's design for your marriage.

**#4** Be a submissive wife. I know for some of you, as you read the word submission, you are becoming very uneasy. If the idea of submission rubs you the wrong way, I want to encourage you to take another look at the definition according to Scripture. Submission should never be considered a word that denotes inferiority or a position that is contemptible to you. If this is your belief, let me assure you that your understanding of this issue is not a biblical one. Submission is something that we all have to learn in every aspect of our lives. You must learn to submit to the laws of this country whether they are traffic laws or our criminal code. If you work outside the home you must submit

to your employer and his or her requests. When you went to school you had to learn submission to the teacher when an assignment was given. When you go to the doctor with an illness, you must choose whether or not you will submit to your physician's diagnosis and treatment. When you must render submission in these areas of life you don't consider it degrading to you as a person. You would never think that your employer or your doctor was better than you are and that you were inferior to them. In these circumstances you would reason that your submission is a simple necessity for harmony in the work place or necessary for you to gain your health. The same is true for your marriage. True biblical submission in the home will bring harmony and health to your marriage.

Consider the example of Christ. Paul the Apostle declared that Jesus was "equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant...humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death" (Philippians 2:6-8). Jesus obviously did not consider submission to the Father's will as a position of lesser value, and neither should you as you submit to your husband. You can be equal to your husband and in submission to him at the same time.

Submission is first an attitude of love, respect, and gentleness in the way you speak and act toward your husband. You should also expect to receive this attitude of love and respect from him. Notice Paul's final encouragement to husbands and wives in Ephesians chapter five. He encourages both partners to loving submission when he said, "...let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband" (v33). When you demonstrate love and respect toward your spouse in this manner, you comprehend the essence of what submission is all about.

Submission is much more than just an attitude, it also produces powerful action. Your submission is what renders a death blow to selfishness. Paul declared, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Ephesians 5:21 KJV). The word "submit" means to *subdue*. But, what are you to subdue? Yourself! Self or selfishness is the greatest problem we face in loving and respecting others, especially a spouse.

Submission is what destroys selfishness and enables you to give in a way that will bring harmony with your mate. If you refuse to deny yourself through submission, conflict will result in every part of your relationship. James declares that "where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing will be there" (James 3:16). If there is confusion and conflict in your marriage, selfishness will be the cause of the problem every time. Therefore, learning to subdue selfishness through submission is the key to dealing with every evil habit within your marriage.

**#5 Be a companion.** Did you know that companionship is the ultimate goal of your marriage relationship? When God created Eve it was to solve the problem of Adam's aloneness by bringing him a companion for life.

This is how the prophet, Malachi, referred to wives when he reproved the men of Israel for their lack of caring for their spouses. He warned the men, "The Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant" (Malachi 2:14).

Companionship is the most fundamental purpose and goal of your marriage relationship, and should, therefore, be the highest priority of your time together each day. God has called you to be a spiritual, emotional, intellectual, social, and sexual companion to your husband. In each of these areas God wants you to seek specific ways to develop companionship, friendship, helpfulness, understanding, and giving. As you love your husband in this manner you will naturally notice the deepening of your one-flesh relationship together. This is also where the joy and satisfaction of your relationship will be found, simply because you are fulfilling God's design and calling for you as a wife.

But, the real question is this: how can you experience and grow in companionship with your husband? Companionship is the result of doing all the things discussed in this article.

\* \* \* \* \*

Every wife reading this will be in a slightly different place with regard to her relationship with her husband. And every husband is different, too.

Still, God's Word is speaking to you as to your role and responsibilities as a wife. It is "as unto the Lord" that you are to fulfill your role, listening for His commendation, "Well done, good and faithful servant."