


1

Roles of the Husband and Wife

Biblical Soul-Care Workshops



Week 7
Sessions 2 & 3

2

Your Identity Reveals Position and Roles in Marriage

- God's purpose for you in marriage is revealed by His choice of your gender. Your male/female identity models the trinity as you live in oneness within His established hierarchy. Know and accept your God-given roles as defined by your identity.
- Role – Purpose by which you as an individual will demonstrate the characteristics and nature of God as you seek specific ways to pursue a unified relationship with your spouse
- Responsibility – Choosing to learn how to specifically obey the imperatives in God's word as you divide household responsibilities.

3

Identity Defines Position

Identity/Position in Marriage

God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Standing within a God-determined hierarchy</i> - Reflects Trinitarian Unity • Jesus Christ always was and always will be in subjection to the Father • God's design before and after the fall • Gender identifies Identity/Position which defines roles; Roles are helpful in determining responsibilities
Jesus	
Holy Spirit	
Government	
Church	
Employer	
Husband	
Wife	
Children	

4

Comparing Identity & Roles

Male and Female Identity and Roles

HUSBAND	WIFE
Lover	Completer (Gen. 2:18)
Servant-Leader	Servant (Eph. 5:22-24)
Learner	Helper (Gen. 2:18)
Protector	Loving companion (Tit. 2; Eph. 5:22-24)
Provider	Manager (Pr.31)
Father	Mother

"The Curse brought a distortion of previous roles, not the introduction of new ones" Wayne Grudem

5

Mutual Responsibilities in Marriage

1. Submission to God (Ex. 20).
2. Love God and each other (Mk. 12:30-31).
3. Forgive and seek forgiveness (Eph. 4:32).
4. Communicate (Eph. 4:15,25,29).
5. Pursue oneness and interdependence – vs. 'mutual submission' (Gen. 2:23-25).
6. Meet spouse's sexual interests (1 Cor. 7:1-7).
7. Develop and nurture an environment of grace, effectively modeling, training, and disciplining children to become worshippers. (Mal. 2:14-17).

6

Husband's Roles

Lover

1. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, (Eph. 5:25)
2. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. (Eph. 5:28)
3. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Eph. 5:33)
4. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. (Col. 3:19)

Husband's Role-LOVER	7
<p>Defining Love</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Love is opposite of selfishness – [love] Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own (is not selfish)... (1 Cor. 13:5 KJV) 2. Love is opposite of fear - There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. (1 Jn. 4:18) 3. "Love comes from a heart of worship and is other-focused, selfless giving for the eternal good of the other person". 	

Husband's Role-LOVER	8
<p>Defining Love</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Love is gives sacrificially <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. For God so loved the world, that <u>he gave</u> his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (Jn. 3:16) b. ²⁰I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal. 2:20) c. Your masculinity is measured by who and what you love. 	

Husband's Role-LOVER	9
<p>Defining Love</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Love Acts – love is a verb Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. (1 Cor. 13:4-8) 	

Husband's Role-LOVER	10
<p>Defining Love</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Love is more than giving - If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. (1 Cor. 13:3) 7. Love is more than action - And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. (1 Cor. 13:2) 8. Giving and Actions must be love-driven - The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (1 Tim. 1:5) 	

Husband's Role-LOVER	11
<p>The Christ-like role of Lover</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Husbands are to love first - We love because he first loved us. (1 Jn. 4:19) 2. Husbands are to love most - Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, (Eph. 5:25) 3. Husbands are to love sacrificially (Eph. 5:25) 4. Husbands are to love unmistakably - Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (1 Jn. 3:18) 	

Husband's Role-LOVER	12
<p>The Christ-like role of Lover</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Husbands are to love in spite of faults - but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8) 6. Husbands are to love without bitterness - Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. (Col. 3:19) 7. The husbands is to find pleasure and satisfaction in his wife - Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, (Prov. 5:18) 	

Husband's Role-LOVER

13

The Christ-like role of Lover

8. Husbands are to love **as you love your own body** ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. (Eph. 5:28-30)
9. Husbands are to love **with covenant faithfulness** ^{14b}though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. ¹⁵Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless... (Mal. 2:14-17)

Husband's Role-LEADER/SHEPHERD

14

Jesus, the Ultimate Leader/Shepherd

But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matt. 20:25-28)

Husband's Roles-LEADER/SHEPHERD

15

A Leader/shepherd is not a dictator

And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day." (Matt. 20:17-19)

Husband's Role-LEADER/SHEPHERD

16

Characteristics of a Leader/shepherd

1. **By example** – Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Eph. 5:1-2)
 - Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. (1 Cor. 11:1)
2. **In Humility** Phil. 2:3 *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.*
 - "Leadership without humility is destructive; humility without leadership is effeminate"

Husband's Role-LEADER/SHEPHERD

17

Characteristics of a Leader/shepherd

3. "The test of your servant-hood is how you respond when you are treated like one."
4. The servant/leader does not make all the decisions. He consults his wife, listens to her opinions respectfully, dialogs about the options-comparing them with biblical principles, discusses possible outcomes with attention given to the potential effect for others, especially his wife.

Husband's Role-LEADER/SHEPHERD

18

Characteristics of a Leader/shepherd

5. **Goal-oriented** - ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. (Eph. 5:26-28)

Husband's Role-LEADER/SHEPHERD	19
Characteristics of a Leader/shepherd	
<p>6. Other-focused - Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Phil. 2:4)</p> <p>a. ²⁰For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. (Phil. 2:20–21)</p> <p>b. ⁴Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4)</p>	

Husband's Role-LEADER/SHEPHERD	20
Characteristics of a Leader/shepherd	
<p>7. Self-controlled – ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. (Phil. 4:9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. (Titus 1:7-8) 	

Husband's Role-LEADER/SHEPHERD	21
Characteristics of a Leader/shepherd	
<p>8. Problem-solver – Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. (Eph. 4:29)</p> <p>9. Teacher - I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, (Acts 20:20)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? (1 Tim. 3:4–5; Matt. 28:19-20) 	

Husband's Role-LEADER/SHEPHERD	22
Characteristics of a Leader/shepherd	
<p>10. Worship-leader – “Let us go to the house of the LORD!” (Ps. 122:1)</p> <p>a. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together! (Ps. 34:3)</p> <p>b. Husbands are responsible for consistency in church and Sunday School attendance.</p> <p>c. Husbands are responsible for consistency in devotions, Bible reading/study, and prayer in the home.</p>	

Husband's Role-LEARNER	23
A Disciple is a Learner	
<p>1. “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. (Matt. 10:24)</p> <p>2. A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. (Lu. 6:40)</p> <p>3. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Pet. 3:18)</p>	

Husband's Role-PROTECTOR	24
A Husband is to be a Protector	
<p>1. Warns of Danger - So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. (Acts 20:31)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; <u>reprove, rebuke, and exhort</u>, with complete patience and teaching. (2 Tim. 4:2) • But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Heb. 3:13) 	

Husband's Role-PROTECTOR 25

A Husband is to be a Protector

2. Protects from danger - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Ps. 46:1)

- From evil/worldly influences in the home
- Ensures sound doctrines are taught in their church, home and education
- Guards finances
- Guards the calendar, is careful to protect against stress and over-commitments, foolish uses of time and resources.

Husband's Role-PROTECTOR 26

Protectors Encourage and Comfort

3. Protects from discouragement - Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4)

- Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. (Eph. 4:29)

4. Protects from despair - But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. (Cor. 14:3; see also 2 Cor. 1:3-5)

Husband's Role-PROVIDER 27

Provider

- If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (1 Tim. 5:8)
- Define "provide" biblically. Needs vs. wants play into this decision. Doing with less and growing in contentment can help in determining what the family needs.

Husband's Role-FATHER 28

The Role of a Father

- Not every husband is called to be a father
- Fathers are called to fulfill their role as husband first as they seek to be godly fathers to their children. (see all above)
- Fathers must not abdicate their parental responsibilities to their wife.
- A large percentage of counseling requests come from wives who are discouraged, alone, and exasperated because their husbands don't lead spiritually and take initiatives with their children.

Comparing Identity & Roles 29

Male and Female Identity and Roles

HUSBAND	WIFE
Lover	Completer (Gen. 2:18)
Servant-Leader	Servant (Eph. 5:22-24)
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Wife's Role-HELPER-SUITABLE 30

Glorifying God as a "Helper-Suitable"

1. Helper-opposite, completing and complimenting the man (Gen. 2:18).
2. The Holy Spirit as helper - For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance (Phil. 1:19).
3. God as helper strengthens (Eph. 3:16).
4. God as helper gives refuge and strength (Ps. 46).

Completing and Complimenting through Spiritual Vibrancy

- In the Bible the word helper speaks of a person who meets the needs of, or completes another person. A biblical helper is a very important part of the marriage equation. God is the perfect Helper.
- (Ps. 46; 10:14; 118:7; Deut. 33:29; Heb. 13:6)
- *For additional study:* Use a concordance to look up the uses of the words "help" and "helper" in the book of Psalms.

Completing and Complimenting through Spiritual Vibrancy

1. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, ... Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, ... (1 Pet. 3:1-4)
2. Meekness towards God is manifested in voluntary, continual submission *"is an inwrought grace of the soul; and the exercises of it are first and chiefly towards God. It is that temper of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting;"*

Ways to be a Helper (Wayne Mack)

1. Making the home a refuge - a place of encouragement, comfort, and understanding (Prov. 31:11, 20). Avoid jokes about your husband or cutting remarks to him. Don't constantly remind him of his faults, mistakes, and failures. Correct him only if it's absolutely necessary. Don't allow the home to be in shambles, full of disorder and confusion. Don't create a show-place home where everything must always be immaculate. Husbands want homes to live in, not show places to visit.

Ways to be a Helper (Wayne Mack)

2. Be trustworthy and dependable (Pr. 31:11, 12).
3. Maintain a good attitude (Pr. 31:26, 28, 29; Ja. 3:13-18; Phil. 4:4).
4. Discuss things lovingly, openly, and honestly (Eph. 4:25).
5. Be satisfied with your position, possessions, and tasks (Phil. 4:6-13; Heb. 13:5,16).
6. Be longsuffering, forgiving, and forbearing (Eph. 4:2, 31, 32; Col. 3:12-14).
7. Show genuine interest in his problems and concerns (Phil. 2:3, 4).

Ways to be a Helper (Wayne Mack)

8. Be industrious, frugal, diligent, ambitious, and creative as a member of the team (Ps. 128:3; Pr. 31:10-31).
9. Offer suggestions, advice, and corrections when needed in a loving fashion (Pr. 31:26).
10. Keep yourself beautiful, especially in the inner person by maintaining a good spiritual life (1 Pet. 3:1-7).
11. Cooperate with him in raising children (Eph. 6:20; Pr. 31:26-28; 1 Tim. 5:13,14).

Ways to be a Helper (Wayne Mack)

12. Build loyalty to him in the children. The wife's attitudes toward the husband are quickly picked up by the children. Lack of respect or confidence in his leadership, complaints about what he has or has not done will have debilitating influence on the children. She must avoid taking sides with the children or anyone against her husband. She must support and cooperate with him in discipline. All differences of opinion about discipline should be settled away from the children.

Wife's Role-HELPER-SUITABLE	37
<p>Ways to be a Helper (Wayne Mack)</p> <p>13. Be grateful to him. Appreciation should be expressed freely and in a variety of ways (Rom. 13:7).</p> <p>14. Show confidence in his decisions. Disdain, lack of confidence, anxiety, or strong opposition over his decisions may cause him to become indecisive, defensive, or reactionary. If the wife doubts the wisdom of important decisions, she should ask questions in a non-threatening way, assuming that there are some facts she does not know and that he really does want what is best for them both (1 Cor. 13:4-8).</p>	

Wife's Role-SERVANT	38
<p>Why Submission?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Goal of unity and oneness (Eph. 4:1-4) 2. Goal of mutual edification (Eph. 4:12,15-16) 3. Called to be imitators of God. (Eph. 5:1-17) 4. Enabled by the filling of the Spirit. (Eph. 5:18) 5. Commanded to worship with thanksgiving (Eph. 5:19-20) 6. Interdependent, not mutually submissive. (Eph. 5:21) 7. Reflecting the relationship of Christ and the Church (Eph. 5:22-33) 	

Wife's Role-SERVANT	39
<p>Why Submission?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Wives, <u>submit</u> to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should <u>submit</u> in everything to their husbands. (Eph. 5:22-24) 9. Commanded (Col. 3:18; Tit. 2:4, 5; 1 Tim. 2:9-12; 1 Pet. 3:1-6) 10. Continuous - The Greek verb "be subject" (Eph. 5:22 and most other passages) is present tense, meaning it should be a continuous part of her lifestyle. 	

Wife's Role-SERVANT	40
<p>Why Submission?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. A matter of obedience - "<i>as unto the Lord</i>" 12. Comprehensive command - "But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands <u>in everything</u>." 13. Limited command - this excludes any request from the husband that would cause the wife to sin (cf. Acts 5:29). 14. Submission is a universal command. Satan failed (Is. 14:13), Adam failed (Gen. 3), all humans fail (Is. 53:6; Rom. 3:9ff) 	

Wife's Role-SERVANT	41
<p>What Submission is not</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Woman is NOT INFERIOR to the husband. 2. "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear,... because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. (Jn. 5:30) (see Gen 1:26-27; 2:23) 3. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Gal. 3:28) 4. Submission does not mean that the husband is infallible. (Rom. 13:1; 1 Pet. 3:1-6) 5. Submission does not mean that the wife can't think or be productive. (Prov. 31) 	

Wife's Role-SERVANT	42
<p>What Submission is</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Greek word translated "submission" in our English Bibles is a military term that literally means "arrange yourself in rank under." In any organization, or relationship (even the Trinity), there has to be a plan for function and order. 2. Someone has to take the lead and carry the responsibility; someone has to follow. 3. Submission demonstrates love for God - but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. (Jn. 14:31) 	

Wife's Role-SERVANT	43
<p>Voluntary, Continual Submission</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submission reflects the eternal nature of the God-head; Jesus always submits to the Father, the Holy Spirit always submits to Christ and the Father. 2. 1 Pet. 2:13ff - Citizens be subject...Slaves be subject... 3. Because the Savior suffered... 4. Wives, <u>in the same way</u> be submissive to your husbands (1 Pet. 3:1-6; Col. 3:18) 5. Reflects Christ and the Church (Eph. 5:23) 	

Wife's Role-LOVING COMPANION	44
<p>Other-focused Oneness</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Doing good for her husband 2. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. (Prov. 31:12) 3. Learn to love your husband 4. Then they can <u>train the younger women to love their husbands</u> and children, (Titus 2:4) 	

Wife's Role-LOVING COMPANION	45
<p>Show Respect</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ³³However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Eph. 5:33) 2. The word "respect" means to highly regard, notice, honor, prefer, esteem, praise, admire exceedingly. 3. The responsibility of the wife is to "respect" her husband. That is a command, and not an option. Therefore, a wife cannot use the excuse that "he doesn't deserve it." The wife must give respect to her husband in spite of his imperfections. 	

Wife's Role-LOVING COMPANION	46
<p>Faithful to Him and the Household</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. (Pr. 31:11) 2. Manage Household Wisely - ... she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. (Pr. 31:15) 3. ...watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. (Pr. 31:27) 4. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, <u>faithful in all things</u>. (1 Tim. 3:11) 	

Husband's Role-MOTHER	47
<p>The Role of a Mother</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not every wife is called to be a mother 2. Mothers are called to first fulfill her role as wife as they seek to be godly mothers to their children. (see all above) 3. Mothers must not abdicate their parental responsibilities to their husbands. 4. Mothers must fight the temptations to sin when their husbands don't lead spiritually and take initiatives with their children. 	

Mutual Responsibilities	48
<p>Committed to Godly Children</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Then they can train the younger women to <u>love their husbands and children</u>, (Tit. 2:4) 2. Has not [the LORD] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? <u>Because he was seeking godly offspring</u>. (Mal. 2:15a) 3. Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake <u>your mother's teaching</u>. (Pr. 1:8) 4. ⁷Impress them [commandments] on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (Deut. 6:6-9) 	

Mutual Responsibilities	49
<p>Choosing and Deferring re: Tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who pays the bills? • Who manages household maintenance? • Who empties the waste cans? Takes out the garbage? • Who mows the grass? Who shovels snow? • Who plans menus? Cooks the meals? Does the dishes? • Who makes the bed? Who says how it's done? • Who drives? • 2-door, 4-door, mini-van? • Who maintains the vehicle(s)? 	

