

"male and female He created them." (Gen. 1:27)

God's Grand Design

The Beauty of Biblical Complementarity (pt. 14)

Genesis 2:18, 21-24

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."... ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. ²² The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

²³ And the man said,

"This is now bone of my bones,
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man."

Genesis 2:18, 21-24

²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

Submission and Honor in Marriage

1 Peter 3:1-7

1 Peter 3:1-7

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, ² as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. ³ And let not your adornment be *merely* external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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; ⁶ just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

1 Peter 3:1-7

⁷ You husbands in the likewise, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

1 Peter 3:1-7

➤ Context:

- Peter writes to Christians who are suffering; he comforts them with hope and challenges them to holy living as a gospel-witness
- As exiles, he urges them to exhibit a lifestyle distinct from, yet attractive to, the hostile culture in which they live, including proper submission

The Beauty of Submission

➤ Definition of “Submit”

- to place oneself deliberately, voluntarily, and consciously under someone’s authority
- implies a husband’s headship/authority over his wife (she is a “suitable helper”– Gen. 2:18)

The Beauty of Submission

➤ Evidences of God’s Design

- a wife’s godly submission is attractive even to an unbelieving husband
- Peter appeals to the consistent pattern of godly women in the Old Testament (e.g. Sarah)

The Beauty of Submission

1. What Submission is *Not*

- putting your husband in the place of Christ
- giving up independent thought and personhood
- agreeing with your husband on everything
- avoiding efforts to influence your husband
- coerced by or living in fear
- based on inferiority or spiritual inequality

The Beauty of Submission

2. What Submission *Is*

- an inner disposition that honors and affirms a husband’s leadership, and helps carry it out
 - includes a gentle and quiet spirit – not harsh, self-assertive or anxious