

What Is The Role Of A 21st Century Husband And Wife?

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Many today may enter the marriage relationship with little to no knowledge of what their roles really are as husband and wife. A woman may ask, “What is the role of a wife in the 21st century?” A man may want to know, “What is my role as a 21st century husband?”

1) Role Not Determined

By: The role of husband and wife in the 21st century is not determined by what we see in society, what is portrayed on television or in the movies, what an Internet search may turn up, how it was in the family in which we were brought up, or by what some well-meaning counsellor or physician may suggest.

2) Role Established By:

The role of husband and wife is decided by God who established the husband/wife relationship at the beginning. After forming man “of the dust of the ground” (Gen. 2:7), God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him” (Gen. 2:18). “And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man” (Gen. 2:22). Jesus

recognized the principles governing marriage established at the beginning as being in effect in the first century (Mt. 19:3-6). Epistle teaching concerning the role of husband and wife was not based upon circumstance or culture of the day, but rather upon timeless principles from the beginning: (1) *The order of creation*, “For Adam was first formed, then Eve” (1 Tim. 2:13); (2) *The transgression*, “And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression” (1 Tim. 2:14). As long as it remains true that man was first formed and the woman was in the transgression, the role of male and female as established by God will be in effect. It simply becomes a matter of reading the word of God to find out the role of husband and wife, and whatever those roles are, those are the roles of husbands and wives in any century.

3) Role Of A 21st Century Husband: *To leave and cleave.*

Genesis 2:23-24 records, “And Adam 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. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

To be the spiritual leader in

the family. God said of Abraham, “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment...” (Gen. 18:19). Joshua said, “...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Josh. 24:15). Paul wrote, “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4). He can be the spiritual leader in his family today by striving to be what a bishop and deacon must be (1 Tim. 3:1-13), which includes, “One that ruleth well his own house...” and “...ruling their children and their own houses well” (vv. 4, 12).

To be the head. “For the husband is the head of the wife...” (Eph. 5:23). This does not mean that he is ruthless, harsh and tyrannical, ruling as an iron-fisted dictator, but “...even as Christ is the head of the church...” (Eph. 5:23).

To love his wife. Ephesians 5 teaches, “Husbands, love your wives...” How is a husband to love his wife in the 21st century? “...even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (v. 25), “...as their own bodies...” (vv. 28-29), and “...as himself...” (v. 33). His preference is for his wife, and he regards her welfare above his own.

To render due benevolence unto the wife. “Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence...” as “...the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife” (1 Cor. 7:3-4). He must respect her bodily needs.

To provide for his own. “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel” (1 Tim. 5:8). Some men are too lazy to work and Paul said, “...that if any would not work, neither should he eat” (2 Th. 3:10). Break some plates and see how many start working to provide for their own.

To honor his wife. “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered” (1 Pet. 3:7). The husband is to be considerate of his wife, and treat her with understanding. She is deserving of honor “...as the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life...” Failure to treat one’s wife properly results in hindered prayers!

4) Role Of A 21st Century Wife: To be a helper. God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him” (Gen. 2:18). With Adam’s rib, “...made he a woman, and brought her unto the man” (Gen. 2:22). The wife is to be a helper, an aider to her husband.

To be a virtuous woman. “A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones” (Prov. 12:4). The role of a 21st century wife is beautifully depicted in the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31:10-31. Let her be your role model.

To submit to her husband. “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord...as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing” (Eph. 5:22, 24).

To reverence her husband. “...and the wife see that she reverence her husband” (Eph. 5:33). She is to venerate her husband, and treat him with deference or reverential obedience. “Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord...” (1 Pet. 3:1-6).

To render due benevolence

unto the husband. “...The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband” (1 Cor. 7:3-4). Defrauding the other contributes to all kinds of problems (v. 5).

To adorn herself properly. “...that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works” (1 Tim. 2:9-10). Peter said, “Whose adorning...let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price” (1 Pet. 3:3-4).

To be what a woman is to be. “The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed” (Titus 2:3-5).

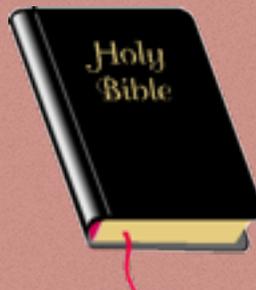
Let’s respect the God-given roles of husbands and wives.

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