

1. The Virtuous Wife – what is the standard?

What is virtue ? behaviour showing high moral standards – morality, goodness.

Proverbs 33 :

¹⁰ Who can find a virtuous wife?

For her worth is far above rubies.

¹¹ The heart of her husband safely trusts her;

So he will have no lack of gain.

¹² She does him good and not evil

All the days of her life.

¹³ She seeks wool and flax,

And willingly works with her hands.

The duty of all people is to improve all their talents, and particularly their time, which is one of the noblest of them - to the service of that God to whom they must give an account, and to the good of that community to which they are related (their body of Christ) .

¹⁴ She is like the merchant ships,

She brings her food from afar.

¹⁵ She also rises while it is yet night,

And provides food for her household,

And a portion for her maidservants.

¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it;

From her profits she plants a vineyard.

¹⁷ She girds herself with strength,

And strengthens her arms.

¹⁸ She perceives that her merchandise is good,

And her lamp does not go out by night.

¹⁹ She stretches out her hands to the distaff,

And her hand holds the spindle.

²⁰ She extends her hand to the poor,

Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.

²¹ She is not afraid of snow for her household,

For all her household is clothed with scarlet.

²² She makes tapestry for herself; - something creative

Her clothing is fine linen and purple. – well dressed /presentable

²³ Her husband is known in the gates,

When he sits among the elders of the land.

²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them,

And supplies sashes for the merchants.

²⁵ Strength and honor are her clothing;

She shall rejoice in time to come.

²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom,

And on her tongue is the law of kindness.

²⁷ She watches over the ways of her household,

And does not eat the bread of idleness.

²⁸ Her children rise up and call her blessed;

Her husband also, and he praises her:

²⁹ “Many daughters have done well,
But you excel them all.”
³⁰ Charm *is* deceitful and beauty *is* passing,
But a woman *who fears the LORD*, she shall be praised.
³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands,
And let her own works praise her in the gates.

2. Helper

Gen 2:18 And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a **helper** comparable to him.”....

.....²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become **one flesh**.

It is interesting to note that the Hebrew meaning of the word helper in this passage is found hereafter in the Bible to refer only to **God as He helps us**. The fact that this same word is applied to a wife signifies that we women have been given tremendous power for good in our husbands’ lives. **God has designed wives to help their husbands become all that God intends for them to be.**

3. Respect

In Ephesians 5:33, Paul says, “... let the wife see that she respects her husband.” When you respect your husband you notice him, regard him, honour him, prefer him, and esteem him. It means valuing his opinion, admiring his wisdom and character, appreciating his commitment to you, and considering his needs and values.

Our husbands have many needs. The macho man who is self-contained, independent, and invulnerable is a myth. Ask your husband what his personal primary needs are

Eg :

- Self-confidence in his personhood as a man
- To be listened to
- Companionship
- To be needed

Meeting these needs is what respecting your husband is all about. Perhaps to bolster his confidence, for example, to try to encourage him by being his number one fan. Every husband wants his wife to be on his team, to coach him when necessary, but most of all to be his cheerleader. A husband needs a wife who is behind him, believing in him, appreciating him, and cheering him on as he goes out into the world every day.

4. Love in action

Titus 2:4 calls for wives “to love their husbands.” A good description of the kind of love your husband needs is “unconditional acceptance.” In other words, accept your husband just as he is—an imperfect person.

Love also means being committed to a mutually fulfilling sexual relationship. I realize there is a whole

lot more to love than sex, but we are looking at how to fulfil God's command to love our husbands. Therefore, we must look at love from their perspective, not just our own.

Surveys show that sex is one of a man's most important needs—if not the most important. When a wife resists intimacy, is uninterested, or is only passively interested, her husband may feel rejection. It will cut at his self-image, tear at him to the very centre of his being, and create isolation.

My husband's sexual needs should be more important and higher on my priority list than housework, projects, activities, and even the children. It does not mean that I should think about sex all day and every day, but it does mean that I find ways to remember my husband and his needs. It means I save some of my energy for him. This keeps me from being selfish and living only for my own needs and wants. Maintaining that focus helps me defeat isolation in our marriage.¹ Corinthians 7:3-4 —The husband should fulfil his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfil her husband's needs. The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife.

Love is an action, a choice, a will of the heart to care for your husband more than you do yourself (Ephesians 5:33). The truth of our love for our partner will be demonstrated through our actions, not just our words.

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.

Your Hubie isn't perfect; no husband is. In all seriousness, he will need forgiveness from time to time. Don't withhold it. Forgive him the same as Christ forgives you. Plus, if you're like me, it will only be a matter of minutes before you have done something where you need his forgiveness again. Forgiveness has a unique way of tearing down walls that get built up in a marriage. Grace can cover a multitude of mistakes.

Following the example of Jesus drives us to extend His sense of "others first" mentality towards friends, neighbours, and co-workers. For whatever reason, we don't always extend that same effort towards our marriage. We can be mean and harsh to our husbands in ways we would never be with others (Colossians. 3:19). I'm not sure if it's because he knows us better than anyone else or we are simply more comfortable around him, but we can certainly be more selfish in reaching for our goals and desires over his. It's wrong. We are to value our husbands above everyone else on the planet. It's the kind of love Scripture calls us to...

5. Submit to his leadership:

Just mention the word "submission," and many women immediately become angry and even hostile.

Some husbands and wives actually believe submission infers that women are inferior to men in some way. Some women think that if they submit they will lose their identity and become non-persons.

Others fear (some with good reason) that submission leads to being used or abused.

Another misconception is that submission means blind obedience on the part of the woman. She can give no input to her husband, question nothing, and only stay obediently barefoot and pregnant in the kitchen.

What does God have in mind? Here's a key passage from Scripture, **Ephesians 5:22-30:**

*Wives, **submit** 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 Saviour. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.*

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.

5.Helping my husband became who God intended him to be:

These Scriptures make it clear that a wife should submit voluntarily to her husband's sensitive and loving leadership. Therefore, as I voluntarily submit to my husband, I am completing him. I am helping him fulfil his responsibilities, and I am helping him become the man, the husband, and the leader God intended him to be.

Building oneness in marriage works best when both spouses choose to fulfil their responsibilities voluntarily, with no pressure or coercion. To become the servant-leader God has commanded him to be, my husband needs my gracious respect and submission. And when he loves me the way he is commanded to, I can more easily submit myself to that leadership.

I do this with an attitude of **entrusting myself to God**. In one of his letters, Peter told us that even though Jesus suffered terrible pain and insults, He did not retaliate "continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly" (**1 Peter 2:23**). When you entrust your life to the Father, it's much easier to be the wife of an imperfect man, particularly when you may have disagreements.

A special note: Some wives may live with abuse or in excessively unhealthy and destructive conditions in their marriage. At times, it may be inappropriate or even life-threatening for you to apply unquestioningly the principles of submission. For example, if you are being physically or verbally abused, you need to take steps to protect yourself and your children. Please discerningly seek out someone wise who has been trained to help with your specific issue.

Loving, forgiving, and submitting do not mean that you become a doormat or indefinitely tolerate significantly destructive behaviour.

6. Setting an example for my children :

As a mom, you fill a primary role in teaching your kids about marriage. Therefore, your example will demonstrate to your son how he should treat his wife and instil in your daughter expectations of being valued by her husband.

How it all fits together :

If you have ever sewn a dress, or attempted to sew one, you know how a pattern works. The pattern is made of many pieces, some large and some small, none of which accurately resemble the finished product.

When you lay out the pattern and cut the cloth, you do not have a garment but only some scraps of cloth. When it is properly assembled and made usable with buttons, snaps, or a zipper, these pieces make a complete dress.

Every pattern has pairs of parts: two sleeves, two bodice pieces, a front and back skirt, and even the

collar and facing pieces are usually in twos. A marriage is very similar. God has designed a master pattern for husbands and wives that, when followed, will create a whole, usable, beautiful marriage.

In the same way a dress can be made in a variety of sizes and colours with numerous differences in detail from one pattern, marriages look different.

As we acknowledge Christ as Lord of our lives, we must work out our marriages according to God's plan.

The key is for each wife to follow God's plan, know her part, and work to fit in with her husband's responsibilities *despite his shortcomings*.

1) 1 John 3:18 —Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

Keep these bible verses about marriage foremost in your mind every day , and you'll keep your marriage moving in the right direction with prayer and lots of GRACE.