

Ruling the Bride, Fighting the Fight!

Desire thwarted by Rule

I saw an army, marching towards a walled city.

As the walls loomed closer ahead, buttresses revealed themselves at intervals along the walls.

The army was exceedingly large and capable;
the city was doomed if the army carried out its
intent.

But the residents of the city had a plan of defense.

Clinging to the top outside of the wall, huddled into the corner of every buttress, was a grotesque, naked creature: a 'god'.

It was a human figure, if distorted.

It was pathetic, defenseless, without any
inherent value.

The 'god' in front of me, clinging to the wall, had
a symbol on it. A dollar sign.

The effectiveness of this defender was entirely dependent on the level of compromise of the attackers.

I realized that the figure essentially functioned
as a 'human shield'.

If the army valued the life of the creature, they
could not attack the wall.

To attack the wall meant destroying the
creature, the 'god', in the process.

Thus the army's real enemy was inside
themselves.

Their own hearts.

There were other 'gods' 'protecting' the city...

...and this presentation is about one of them.

“And this I say, brethren, **the time henceforth is having been shortened**—that both **those having wives may be as not having**; and those weeping, as not weeping; and those rejoicing, as not rejoicing; and those buying, as not possessing; and those using this world, as not using *it* up; for passing away is the fashion of this world. And I wish you to be without anxiety; **the unmarried is anxious for the things of the Lord**, how he shall please the Lord; and **the married is anxious for the things of the world, how he shall please the wife.**”

(1Co 7:29-33)

What do you think, Christian man:

Who *should* you please?

God? Or your wife?

In the beginning, God created Adam. Eve did not exist at all, except as she existed in Adam's side.

“And Jehovah God causeth a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he sleepeth, and He taketh one of his ribs, and closeth up flesh in its stead. And Jehovah God **buildeth up the rib** which He hath taken out of the man **into a woman**, and bringeth her in unto the man;”

(Gen 2:21-22)

God took from Adam's flesh and Adam's bone,
and created Eve.

Adam and Eve were *literally* one flesh, one
bone.

Adam's flesh and bone.

“and the man saith, 'This *is* the *proper* step! bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh!' for this it is called Woman, for from a man hath this been taken; therefore doth a man leave his father and his mother, and hath cleaved unto his wife, and they have become one flesh.”

(Gen 2:23-24)

So marriage derives from this initial creation,
putting back together what was separated.

Eve was specifically created to be a helper and companion to Adam.

Adam was not created to be a helper and companion to Eve.

“And the man calleth names to all the cattle, and to fowl of the heavens, and to every beast of the field; and to man hath not been found an helper—as his counterpart.”

(Gen 2:20)

“And Jehovah God saith, 'Not good for the man to be alone, I do make to him an helper—as his counterpart.'”

(Gen 2:18)

They were not created simultaneously.

They were not created identical.

They were not created 'equal'.

One came from the other...not vice versa.

Does this offend you, husband?

Does this offend you, wife?

Do you not know, oh man, that God *took from Himself* to create you, a **helper** and **wife** to Himself?

God preexisted you.

He did not create you identical, but in His image.

He did not create you 'equal' to Himself.

You came from Him...not vice versa.

You were created to be God's helper, God's
Bride.

How then can it be any different with Adam and Eve?

How can it be any different with Husband and Wife?

In how many ways do we still think to 'wear the pants' in our relationship with Jesus?

He can do what we want, rather than we doing what He wants?

He is here to serve us...rather than we being created to help Him?

“The wives! to your own husbands subject yourselves, as to the Lord, because **the husband is head of the wife**, as also the **Christ is head of the assembly**, and he is saviour of the body, but even as the assembly is subject to Christ, so also *are* the wives to their own husbands in everything. The husbands! **love your own wives**, as also the **Christ did love the assembly**, and did give himself for it, that he might sanctify it, having cleansed *it* with the bathing of the water in the saying, that he might present it to himself the assembly in glory, not having spot or wrinkle, or any of such things, but that it may be holy and unblemished;”

(Eph 5:22-27)

Jesus sets the example for us, Husbands!

Those to whom He was sent, rejected Him,
abandoned Him, attacked Him, killed Him.

But He was willing to undergo the pain and shame, inflicted on Him by those taken from His side, created to be His helper and companion.

Jesus, as the Last Adam, was willing to suffer to gain His bride, where Adam was not.

Was Adam loving Eve by following her into sin?

Adam loved himself more than he loved Eve.

Adam loved himself more than he loved God.

Adam could have redeemed Eve...but he wasn't
up to it.

What about *you, husband*?

Are you willing to follow Jesus' example, or will
you follow Adam's?

If you want to follow Jesus, here is what you are
up against.

Is your wife worth it?

Do you love your wife, or yourself?

God, to Eve:

“Unto the woman He said, 'Multiplying I multiply thy sorrow and thy conception, in sorrow dost thou bear children, and **toward thy husband *is thy desire*, and he doth rule over thee.**'”

(Gen 3:16, YLT)

God, to Eve

“Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and *thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*”

(Gen 3:16, KJV)

What does that mean, “thy **desire** shall be to thy husband?”

Is that a good thing, or a bad thing?

What do you think?

What does your wife think?

What about “he shall **rule** over thee?”

Is that a good thing, or a bad thing?

What do you think?

What does your wife think?

More importantly: What does God mean by it?

When unclear about what a scripture means, it's wise to look at other scriptures.

Sometimes, other scriptures parallel very closely, and thus shine a bright light of understanding.

Just a few verses later, God recounts how He accepted **Abel's** sacrifice but rejected **Cain's**.

Cain got offended, and God warned him:

God, to Cain:

“Is there not, if thou dost well, acceptance? and if thou dost not well, at the opening a sin-offering is crouching, and unto thee its desire, and thou rulest over it.”

(Gen 4:7, YLT)

God, to Cain:

“If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?
and if thou doest not well, *sin lieth at the door.*
And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt
rule over him.”

(Gen 4:7, KJV)

I think the Cain passage is clear enough:

Sin desires to own Cain, to control Cain, to dominate Cain; but Cain must not allow sin to be *his* master, instead **Cain must master sin.**

Do you agree?

Sin **DESIRES** to master Cain, but Cain **MUST**
master sin.

Did Cain heed God's warning?

Did Cain rule over sin?

We know that Cain **did not** obey God.

Cain gave sin the mastery, rather than
subjugating sin.

Cain wound up **murdering** his brother, Abel.

Sin **DEVoured** Cain, because Cain refused to
fight for mastery over it.

So then what does that say about Adam and
Eve's relationship?

Compare the words:

“...toward [Adam] *is* [Eve’s] desire, and [Adam] doth rule over [Eve].”

“...unto [Cain] is [sin’s] desire, and [Cain] rulest over [sin].”

Any **honest** person will see that God here makes

1) Eve equivalent to sin in their shared desire for unlawful mastery, and

2) Cain equivalent to Adam in their common obligation to prevent that from happening.

So one consequence of Eve's submission to the snake, is that Eve **DESIRES** to master Adam.

But Adam **MUST** master Eve.

Taking a lesson from Cain, what do you suppose
will happen if Adam refuses this task?

Do you ever wonder why Adam followed Eve into sin, rather than leading her out of it?

Was Adam seeking God's approval...or his
wife's?

What about *you*?

“And to the man He said, 'Because thou hast hearkened to the voice of thy wife, and dost eat of the tree concerning which I have charged thee, saying, Thou dost not eat of it, cursed *is* the ground on thine account; in sorrow thou dost eat of it all days of thy life, and thorn and bramble it doth bring forth to thee, and thou hast eaten the herb of the field; by the sweat of thy face thou dost eat bread till thy return unto the ground, for out of it hast thou been taken, for dust thou *art* , and unto dust thou turnest back.’”

(Gen 3:17-19)

So this instruction is just as relevant for today's husbands and wives as it is for those still fighting for dominance over sin.

Does God's judgment *offend* you, husband?

Does God's judgment *offend* you, wife?

So I have a hard word to give you, husbands:

1) Either you will obey God's instruction to rule your wives, leading her into righteousness, or

2) you will be led by your wife into deception, disobedience, death, and ejection from the garden of Eden.

Is that too **hard** for modern, egalitarian,
humanist, feminist, tolerant, gender-confused,
anti-Christ cultural training and sensibilities?

Who is wiser: man, or God?

Which 'wisdom' will you keep, and which will
you get rid of?

Who was deceived in the garden, Adam, or Eve?

“Let a woman in quietness learn in all subjection, and a woman I do not suffer to teach, nor to rule a husband, but to be in quietness, for Adam was first formed, then Eve, and Adam was not deceived, but the woman, having been deceived, into transgression came, and she shall be saved through the child-bearing, if they remain in faith, and love, and sanctification, with sobriety.”

(1Ti 2:11-15)

“See, this I have found, said the Preacher, one to one, to find out the reason (that still my soul had sought, and I had not found), **One man, a teacher, I have found**, and **a woman among all these I have not found**. See, this alone I have found, that God made man upright, and they—they have sought out many devices.”

(Ecc 7:27-29)

“I have known thy works, and love, and ministration, and faith, and thy endurance, and thy works—and the last *are* more than the first. 'But I have against thee a few things: That thou dost suffer the woman Jezebel, who is calling herself a prophetess, to teach, and to lead astray, my servants to commit whoredom, and idol-sacrifices to eat; and I did give to her a time that she might reform from her whoredom, and she did not reform; lo, I will cast her into a couch, and those committing adultery with her into great tribulation—if they may not repent of their works, and her children I will kill in death, and know shall all the assemblies that I am he who is searching reins and hearts; and I will give to you—to each—according to your works.”

(Rev 2:19-23)

“I have turned round, also my heart, to know and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and reason, and to know the wrong of folly, and of foolishness the madness. And I am finding **more bitter than death, the woman whose heart is nets and snares, her hands are bands**; the good before God escapeth from her, but the sinner is captured by her.”

(Ecc 7:25-26)

Yet most men today, in their church-bred,
women-led, sin-fed **wisdom** have an instinctive
revulsion for this instruction.

Shouldn't that tell you something?

Do you not know there is more at stake here
than just you and your wife?

“Then said Jesus to his disciples, 'If any one doth will to come after me, let him disown himself, and take up his cross, and follow me, for **whoever may will to save his life, shall lose it**, and whoever may **lose his life for my sake shall find it**, for what is a man profited if he may gain the whole world, but of his life suffer loss? or what shall a man give as an exchange for his life? 'For, **the Son of Man is about to come in the glory of his Father, with his messengers, and then he will reward each, according to his work.**”

(Mat 16:24-27)

If you will not lead your wife as instructed, how
think you to lead the household of God?

“Stedfast *is* the word: If any one the oversight doth long for, a right work he desireth; it behoveth, therefore, the overseer to be blameless, of one wife a husband, vigilant, sober, decent, a friend of strangers, apt to teach, not given to wine, not a striker, not given to filthy lucre, but gentle, not contentious, not a lover of money, **his own house leading well, having children in subjection with all gravity, (and if any one his own house *how* to lead hath not known, how an assembly of God shall he take care of?)**”

(1Ti 3:1-5)

Who is worth more to you, God or your wife?

“If any one doth come unto me, and doth not hate his own father, and mother, **and wife, and children**, and brothers, and sisters, and yet even his own life, **he is not able to be my disciple;**”

(Luk 14:26)

“...and every one who left houses, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or fields, for my name's sake, an hundredfold shall receive, and life age-during shall inherit; and many first shall be last, and last first.”

(Mat 19:29-30)

“And they began with one consent all to excuse themselves: The first said to him, ‘A field I bought, and I have need to go forth and see it; I beg of thee, have me excused. ‘And another said, Five yoke of oxen I bought, and I go on to prove them; I beg of thee, have me excused: and another said, A wife I married, and because of this I am not able to come. ‘And that servant having come, told to his lord these things, then the master of the house, having been angry, said to his servant, Go forth quickly to the broad places and lanes of the city, and the poor, and maimed, and lame, and blind, bring in hither.”

(Luk 14:18-21)

Is your wife feeding contentions between you
and your brothers?

“These six hath **Jehovah hated**, Yea, **seven are abominations to His soul**. Eyes high—tongues false—And hands shedding innocent blood— A heart devising thoughts of vanity—Feet hasting to run to evil— A false witness *who* doth breathe out lies—**And one sending forth contentions between brethren.**”

(Pro 6:16-19)

Do you think there might be reason God saw fit to put this message across so many times:

“A ring of gold in the nose of a sow—A fair woman and stubborn of behaviour.”

(Pro 11:22)

“A calamity to his father *is* a foolish son, And the
contentions of a wife *are* a continual dropping.
House and wealth *are* the inheritance of fathers,
And from Jehovah *is* an **understanding wife.**”

(Pro 19:13-14)

“Better to sit on a corner of the roof, Than *with*
a woman of **contentions** and a house of
company.”

(Pro 21:9)

“Better to dwell in a wilderness land, Than *with*
a **woman of contentions** and anger.”

(Pro 21:19)

“Better to sit on a corner of a roof, Than *with* a
woman of contentions, and a house of
company.”

(Pro 25:24)

“A continual dropping in a day of rain, And a
woman of contentions are alike, Whoso is hiding
her hath hidden the wind, And the ointment of
his right hand calleth out.”

(Pro 27:15-16)

You say you can't win this fight with your wife?

Do you give up in your fight with sin?

Are you saying your wife is more stubborn than
sin?

“...for consider again him who endured such gainsaying from the sinners to himself, that ye may not be wearied in your souls—being faint. Not yet unto blood did ye resist—with the sin striving;”

(Heb 12:3-4)

You say you are afraid of this fight?

'No man doth station himself before thee all days of thy life; as I have been with Moses, I am with thee, I do not fail thee, nor forsake thee; **be strong and courageous**, for thou—thou dost cause this people to inherit the land which I have sworn to their fathers to give to them. 'Only, **be strong and very courageous**, to observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded thee; thou dost not turn aside from it right or left, so that thou dost act wisely in every *place* whither thou goest; the book of this law doth not depart out of thy mouth, and thou hast meditated in it by day and by night, so that thou dost observe to do according to all that is written in it, for then thou dost cause thy way to prosper, and then thou dost act wisely. 'Have not I commanded thee? **be strong and courageous; be not terrified nor affrighted, for with thee is Jehovah thy God in every *place* whither thou goest.**'

(Jos 1:5-9)

“...he who is overcoming shall inherit all things, and I will be to him—a God, and he shall be to me—the son, and **to fearful**, and **unstedfast**, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and **idolaters**, and all the **liars**, their part *is* in the lake that is burning with fire and brimstone, which is a second death.”

(Rev 21:7-8)

You need to fight this fight, for everyone's good,
including her's!

“...having a form of piety, and its power having denied; and **from these be turning away**, for of these there are those **coming into the houses and leading captive the silly women, laden with sins, led away with desires manifold**, always learning, and never to a knowledge of truth able to come, and, even as Jannes and Jambres stood against Moses, so also these do stand against the truth, men corrupted in mind, disapproved concerning the faith;”

(2Ti 3:5-8)

Do you really think that deep down, your wife
doesn't know better?

“And they answer Jeremiah—all **the men who are knowing that their wives are making perfume to other gods**, and all the women who are remaining, a great assembly, even all the people who are dwelling in the land of Egypt, in Pathros—saying: 'The word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of Jehovah—we are not hearkening unto thee; for we certainly do everything that hath gone out of our mouth, to make perfume to the queen of the heavens, and to pour out to her libations, as we have done...and when we are making perfume to the queen of the heavens, and pouring out to her libations—**without our husbands have we made** for her cakes to idolize her, and to pour out to her libations?’”

(Jer 44:15-19)

“And the Adversary goeth forth from the presence of Jehovah, and smiteth Job with a sore ulcer from the sole of his foot unto his crown. And he taketh to him a potsherd to scrape himself with it, and he is sitting in the midst of the ashes. And his wife saith to him, 'Still thou art keeping hold on thine integrity: bless God and die.' And he saith unto her, 'As one of the foolish women speaketh, thou speakest; yea, the good we receive from God, and the evil we do not receive.' In all this Job hath not sinned with his lips.”

(Job 2:7-10)

Here is what Jesus had to say about how to gain
life...which includes gaining your wife:

“...for whoever may will to save his life, shall lose it, and whoever may lose his life for my sake shall find it,”

(Mat 16:25)

“And having called near the multitude, with his disciples, he said to them, 'Whoever doth will to come after me—let him disown himself, and **take up his cross**, and follow me; for **whoever may will to save his life shall lose it**; and whoever may lose his life for my sake and for the good news' sake, he shall save it;”

(Mar 8:34-35)

“And he said unto all, 'If any one doth will to come after me, let him disown himself, and **take up his cross daily**, and follow me; for whoever may will to save his life, shall lose it, and whoever may lose his life for my sake, he shall save it;”

(Luk 9:23-24)

“...remember the wife of Lot. Whoever may seek to save his life, shall lose it; and whoever may lose it, shall preserve it.”

(Luk 17:32-33)

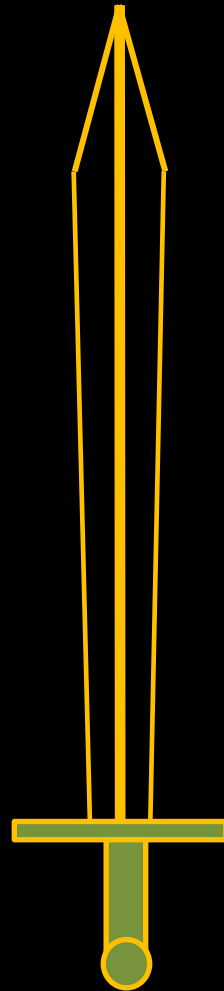
“take heed to thyself, and to the teaching;
remain in them, **for this thing doing, both thyself
thou shalt save, *and those hearing thee.*”**

(1Ti 4:16)

CHOOSE:

God

Your wife



Lack of loving rulership may look like:

- Manipulative - “Riding herd” – whipping husband and children into frenzy (“If mama ain’t happy, ain’t nobody happy!”)
- Insecure - family unstable, attention seeking, approval starved
- Envious - comparing themselves to others
- resenting the standard, tearing it down - role-model both 'loved/admired' and 'hated/despised’
- contempt of those near/familiar, admiration for those distant/unfamiliar
- Argumentative - self-perception as basically/usually right or more right
- Shameless - doesn't recognize and repent of mistakes without extreme external force
- Usurping - willing to exercise authority in place of/on behalf of husband to 'show him how’
- Insubordinate - children emulate mother: feel free to cut down, belittle, rebuke their father
- Loud - pushes self forward - makes self more visible than husband
- Protest - if quiet, with pursed lips, bulging/staring eyes, communicating with body language
- Appearance - obsession with outward appearances rather than internal substance
- Unjust - extreme discomfort with lawful discipline, sees more harshness than there is
- Busybody - involves self in other's family/business without being invited
- Bold - offers opinion/advice/instruction when not asked
- Bleeding heart - takes on offense of others 'for protection’
- Hypocritical - finds faults in others, doesn't deal with faults in self first
- Undiscerning – strains a gnat, swallows a camel

Now lest you misunderstand and accuse me:

YOU husbands are the BRIDE OF CHRIST.

YOU must submit to Him in the same way your
wife should submit to YOU.

If you see these traits in your wife, you are very likely to find them in yourself, too.

You are, after all, one flesh.

So before fixing your wife: fix yourself!

If we men are not obeying and submitting to
God's rule of our lives, our authority to rule is
likewise non-existent.

This is not to be used as an excuse for inaction.

We do not agree to overlook other's sin so that
our sin will be overlooked.

The goal is for everyone to get clean in time for
the wedding.

“and I heard as the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, 'Alleluia! because reign did the Lord God—the Almighty! may we rejoice and exult, and give the glory to Him, because come did the marriage of the Lamb, and his wife did make herself ready; and there was given to her that she may be arrayed with fine linen, pure and shining, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.’”

(Rev 19:6-8)

The Spirit and the Bride say “Come!”

Maranatha!