

## The Wife's Core Role in Marriage

### Introduction:

1. Today's women have a multitude of opportunities and choices.
  - Yet many women feel overworked and overwrought.
  - Many women feel confused concerning what direction their lives should take and what their priorities should be.
  - Many women feel pressured by outside sources vying for their attention.
2. In today's world, what should be the wife's priority? What role does the wife fill in the marriage relationship? A woman cannot afford to guess. She is too important to her husband and her role is too vital in the home.
3. Women need clear principles to guide them as they prioritize and make daily decisions. Understanding your core role will act as a filter. When opportunities, projects, relationships come your way, you filter them through the grid of your core role.
4. Thankfully, the Bible provides clear direction. In **Titus 2:4-5**, God provides a concise summary of a woman's core role in marriage.
  - A core role does not describe everything a person does in marriage.
  - A woman's role is not confined only to what Paul describes here.
  - But a woman dare not neglect this core role in pursuit of other activities.
  - To do so would dishonor God and most likely sabotage her marriage. When women ignore their core role or substitute other roles for it, society will certainly begin to reflect that loss. Families will unravel and marriages will fall apart.
5. Ladies, you are indispensable! Let's examine your core role.

### The first part of the wife's core role: love her husband.

1. Does this seem odd? Shouldn't this be a given? Not in first century Crete where Titus was, nor was it in other parts of the Roman Empire.
2. To understand this core role, you need to examine the creation of woman in **Genesis 2:18-24**.
  - The woman was conceived out of the need of man. This doesn't mean that she was secondary or an afterthought. God carries out creation this way and recorded it for a reason.
  - This event reveals that God had a specific purpose in mind for woman.
  - Her support is essential to man's success.
  - Therefore, the woman's creation both exposed a great need within man and at the same time met it.
3. In **Genesis 2:18** God made the woman to be the man's helper. The phrase "meet for him" means "counterpart, mate."
  - Biblically, the word "helper" does not mean a subordinate or assistant. We have the wrong idea of that word. We think of it as somebody who is a "gopher," they do the dirty work - a person with no authority. They just tag along waiting for someone to tell them what to do.
  - Most of the time the word "help" refers to God Almighty and the help that He supplies. **Psalm 33:20, 70:5, 115:11, 124:8, 146:5**

- In biblical context, a "helper" is a strong person who supports and provides assistance to a weaker person or someone in real need.
  - So clearly, we see there is no implication of weakness or inferiority in the woman's role as a helper. God looked at Adam and said, "I see a weakness. I see a dramatic need." And God created Eve to meet that need.
4. The Bible teaches that a wife is invaluable to her man. **1 Corinthians 11:9**
    - This verse is not a put-down, but rather a compliment. He needs someone custom-made to help him and to do what he cannot be and do by himself. Your support is essential to his success.
    - Remember, we talked about a man's core role is leadership and providing for his family, etc.? He can't do it without you.
    - Without a wife's focus, attention, and encouragement, the husband will have glaring gaps in his life.
    - It is not good for a husband to be left alone.
  5. How does a wife support and help her husband? The key is found in simply "being there."
    - Being available to him, giving him time, energy, and priority, providing thought and creativity to building him up, being there to keep him accountable and confronting him when he's off-track.
  6. The issue is not whether you as a wife should or should not work outside the home. Rather, the question is where your primary focus should be.

**The second part of the woman's core role: love her children.**

1. Isn't it amazing that women have to be admonished to love their children?
  - In our day and culture, it seems that more and more women view children as an imposition rather than a gift, as a liability rather than an asset.
  - But to fight against the maternal instinct is not only unnatural, it is unbiblical.
2. Children, especially young ones, need tremendous doses of personal attention, support, and love.
3. Children need the awesome power of "being there" to be unleashed on them, too. It is not good for a child to be left alone. **Proverbs 22:6, 29:15**
  - Children need training (**Proverbs 22:6**) and lots of time (**Proverbs 29:15**).
4. Healthy, normal child development requires a close, loving, and sustained relationship with at least one person during the formative years.
  - Titus 2 teaches that the mother should provide that. Mom should be that person, if at all possible.
  - Without mom exercising the power of "being there" for her children, the next generation will be even more dysfunctional than the present one.
  - In practice, this means that if you are a mother with younger children, you belong at home with your children more than you belong outside the home earning money at work. I understand that there are exceptions and situations where it cannot be helped.
5. Career opportunities will always be there. But children grow up only once. Can you afford to forego that once in a lifetime investment?

6. Scripture does not forbid a woman from working outside the home, but you need biblical guidelines and perspectives. You can't leave these major decisions to guesswork.
  - Think it through according to God's Word. You have to prioritize. The husband, as the spiritual leader of the home, should sit down with his wife and discern these important issues. The issue is not making the decisions that are easy, but making the decisions that are right.

**In Conclusion:**

1. Your core role as a wife is to:
  - Love your husband
  - Love your children
2. They desperately need your touch and your support to stabilize and energize their lives.
3. For their sakes, **be there!**