

## **"BUILD UP YOUR HUSBAND'S HOUSE"**

Genesis 16:1-3; Ephesians 5:21-24

Is knowing how your husband likes his tea the same as subjection? Just letting him have the final word? 1 Peter 3:6. Two-headed snake. House-building of Genesis → Matthew 16:18 for all. This is everyone's highest calling on earth, not marriage.

### **I. THE WIFE HAS ALWAYS BEEN HER HUSBAND'S HOUSE BUILDER**

#### **A. Adam is the Contractor Under God, the Builder**

Gen 1-3 God the Architect/Builder, universe His temple/house. Holy of Holies = Garden of Eden. Warrior priest/contractor: Adam (2:15). Needs *ezer* (2:18). Not, "Look at poor Adam! The perfect sinless man in the garden of Eden is still incomplete!" Implies false idea about singles. Adam can't reproduce and rule without someone who corresponds to him.

#### **B. Eve is Built to Build Adam's House**

No animal suitable. 2:21-22. "Made" = built" (*banah*). 2:23. Not, "My lonely days and nights are over!" She is built from him, she is built for him, he joyfully approves. One flesh relationship. Same use of *banah* in Gen 16:1-2; Gen 30:3; cf. Ruth 4:11-12. The expansion of the kingdom of God on earth. Romantic love not the reason God instituted marriage. Wife's unique role is to build his house with children. (Wife and mother are inseparable, unless providentially hindered.) Story of Antonio and his wife from Italy.

#### **C. Subjection is Cheerfully Being a House-Builder**

Very wise: "I want to get married because God has built me to be a builder of a home to the glory of God." Far better than, "I want to get married because I am lonely and I hope if I'm married I'll finally be happy and content."

1 Cor 11:8-9. Subjection recognizes and rejoices in this fundamental reality. Subjection is knowing why you're here and for whom. Preacher for the congregation, not vice-versa.

### **II. WIFE, CONTOUR YOUR LIFE TO YOUR HEAD UNDER CHRIST**

#### **A. The Gospel Deepens the Motive for House-Building**

Not only, "This is what I was made for"; but "This is what I was redeemed for." Verse 21: "in fear of God/Christ," Christ her ultimate head; Head/subjection like bolt/nut. The husband's authority is derived from Christ with severe limits. He is her head extensively but not intensively. He can never usurp what Christ says. If a Nabal, the wife should be an Abigail.

Eve's soul/body were built to contour to Adam's soul/body. Applies to more than having children, even as the church submits to Christ. Subjection is contouring your will to that of your husband's. Don't treat him like a remodeling project. Be content to live within his paycheck. Build him up by focusing on strengths. You have the grace to be a wife but not a husband. Do it for the Lord; look to Christ your head and your Savior. Story of the Drs. Mueller.

#### **B. The Gospel Broadens the Application of House-Building**

The gospel broadens the creation/cultural mandate into the Great Commission. Your husband, Christ, can use you to build His church. Like Paul be a co-laborer (*ezer*) with Christ (1 Cor 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). Be a spiritual parent like the Apostle Paul (1 Cor 4:15; Gal 4:19; cf. Isa 8:18).

*Conclusion*