

# GROWTH RESOURCES

## THE CALLING OF THE WIFE

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Due to the messages the media, Hollywood and this world is sending out, most women are confused in regards with their role in life.

- Marketing companies acknowledge that 70% of women feel **depressed, guilty and ashamed** after just 3 minutes of paging through a women's magazine, because they **do not look as good, or live up to the images** of these women.
- In the times that we live **most women don't want to get married because they believe that men are evil**. They believe **men are the cause of the downfall of society**. Many women believe that the problems they have is as a result of men. Many women see being married is equivalent to doing everything for your husband and if you mess up he will let you know properly. You are such a floor-cloth.
- On the other hand the media teaches us today that you do not have to have a man on your side. You can enjoy your career, you can have a man whenever you want to and you do not have to marry him. You can have children without having a husband.

The confusing messages that is being sent out causes children to decide that they do not want to get married one day, because they see families within and outside of the church and it just doesn't work the way anymore that it is supposed to work.

- We live in a time where it is absolutely **scary to see what is happening inside of houses**.
- There is **no longer intimacy in families**.
- **Children are no longer exposed to love that actually changes them, making them better people**.
- **Family members don't talk to each other and they fight the whole day**.
- We have a whole generation of children who were raised in Christian homes and who is saying: "I do not think that the Christianity-thing is working, because look at my family."

We have to ask Abba Father to begin to work in our hearts and to change our hearts according to His Word and to teach us how a family is supposed to function.

- It is important to **teach young girls not to be desperate to marry to fill any void in their lives**. Any void must firstly be filled with God, because marriage is all about giving, not receiving.
- Every women must pray her husband from God, and while she is waiting for her husband, she must allow God the Father to change her heart and to become all that He wants her to be.
- That which Father God expects of you to be and to live in your marriage should already be established and be visible in your life before you get married.

Here are three proprieties of woman in the marriage and in the family I would like to share with you today.

## **PRIORITY 1**

### **CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE THE LOVE OF GOD SHINES FORTH**

How? You do this by

- (1) **building relationships** with your husband and your children
- (2) which **creates an atmosphere** of
- (3) **spiritual and physical welfare** of the people around you
- (4) which **promotes a safe environment** and
- (5) help to **keep away and / or limit all negative and wrong influences** in the lives for the people you care for.

#### **1. Your number one priority is your relationship with God.**

- Unless you are in the **right relationship with God, your relationships in your house will not be healthy.**
- How you feel about yourself will be transferred to your husband, your children, your marriage and the atmosphere in the house. Therefore it is **important that you see yourself the way God sees you.**
- Be the right person before you expect anyone in your household to be the right persons. **"You cannot impart to others what you don't possess".**
- **You need the power of God to face all the challenges of married life and of being a parent.**
- **Your life will be nothing else than confusion and problems if you do not walk in a right relationship with God.**

#### **2. Do not compare yourself to other women. Be who God created you to be.**

- *(1 Pet 3:1-6)*

#### **3. Be to your family a teacher to that which is good**

- *(Tit 2:3-5)*
- Your children will not become who you told them to become. They will become who you are. The most successful teaching method is modelling.
- It is further very clear that **God expects of women to love and respect their husbands. This also brings security to the children.**

## **PRIORITY 2**

### **SUPPORT YOUR HUSBAND TO**

**(1) REACH HIS GODGIVEN CALLING AND POTENTIAL INSIDE THE HOUSE AS HUSBAND AND FATHER**

**(2) AS WELL AS OUTSIDE THE HOUSE AS THE BREADWINNER**

*(Gen 2:18) Now the Lord God said, It is not good (sufficient, satisfactory) that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper meet (suitable, adapted, complementary) for him. (Eph 5:22) Wives, be subject (be submissive and adapt yourselves) to your own husbands as [a service] to the Lord.*

- To be submissive does not mean that you are inferior, dumb or unworthy.
- It means that you have a role to fulfil.
- You must support your husband in his calling as husband, father and breadwinner.
- Does your attitude support your husband? Does your words promote your husband?

- Submission speaks about power and authority to present ideas and passions for your family, and without manipulating your husband you present it to him. With respect you bring proposals and allow your husband to make the decisions. It is a very big responsibility on the shoulders of the husband to make the decisions.
- You already have influence in your family and you will have a better influence with a better attitude. What you need now is protection. God can only protect you when you submit to your husband's leadership. You are in no way in a power-struggle with your husband. And you don't submit only when you think he is right. Sometimes even when he is wrong. Because he will be accountable before God for the decisions he has made. It doesn't however mean that you submit when it is against the Scriptures or morality.

## HOW DO YOU SUBMIT TO YOUR HUSBAND?

### 1. Pray for Him often

*(Prov 21:1) THE KING'S heart is in the hand of the Lord, as are the watercourses; He turns it whichever way He wills.*

- Stop complaining about your husband.
- Stop talking negatively and bad about your husband at other people and your girlfriends.
- Start to pray for your husband.
- Every day you pray that God will give your husband wisdom and a hunger to serve the Lord. Pray that your husband will remain humble and sensitive to the direction of the Holy Spirit and to your needs.

### 2. Plan and make daily time with your husband and protect that time

- **Plan love, attention, communication and care** that you wish to bestow daily and weekly on your husband. It can be a special dinner.
- **Discipline the children to be early in bed.** If you don't do that you will never have alone time with your husband.
- **Make your husband the number one priority and relationship in your life.** Not your mother, not your siblings, not your friends, not your children.

### 3. Prepare yourself daily for your husband

- That which you originally did to get your husband's attention before you were married sometimes **get lost between all the demands of work, children, preparing meals and exhaustion.**
- **It is important to take good care of yourself also in marriage.**
- Don't think because you've got your husband you can be slack on your appearance.
- When your husband gets home from work, make sure the house is clean and tidy. It does not have to be perfect, just in order. If you are busy on the phone, get off and greet your husband properly. Immediately give him attention. Let your children greet their dad and then give them something to keep themselves busy with. **Spend some time to connect with your husband.** And don't start by going off about everything that went wrong today. Give him chance to talk.
- **Ask yourself how you can prepare yourself intellectually, emotionally and physical for your husband that you can connect, communicate and be romantic.**
- You have to create an atmosphere in your home which communicates: "you matter to me".

### **PRIORITY 3**

#### **CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT / ATMOSPHERE WHERE**

##### **(1) YOUR CHILDREN ARE BEING RAISED IN THE FEAR OF GOD**

##### **(2) WHERE YOU HELP THEM TO FULFILL GOD'S WILL FOR THEIR LIVES**

How? You are your child's counselor and comforter in their difficult times of need. You need to be there for them.

#### **1. You start by demonstrating your dependence upon God.**

- Once again your children becomes who you are and not what you tell them they should be.
- **Therefore it is important that you will have the liberty to tell your children: handle disappointments like your mother does, worship like your mother does, handle life like your mother does.** If you cannot do that, you will have to pay attention to the priorities of your life and get it in order. *(Luke 6:40) A pupil is not superior to his teacher, but everyone [when he is] completely trained (readjusted, restored, set to right, and perfected) will be like his teacher.*

#### **2. Pray daily for your children.**

- Get God involved in the education of your children.
- **Your prayers are able to go to places at school, classrooms, playgrounds where you are not always able to go and protect your children.**
- **Raise them from a perspective of who they are in Christ and not from what the world says they are.**
- What does God say about your children? **Do not raise them from fear of what you do not want them to be, raise them from conviction of who God wants them to be.**

#### **3. Schedule family time that you will often spend time together.**

- **How much time do you spent as a family to talk, laugh, play together and have fun?**
- How much time do you spent in front of the television?
- You are the one who has to say: "stop it, life is too fast, let us just get together".
- **Make supper-time special. Light some candles, switch of the TV, play music, talk with each other.**
- **Show interest in their day at school. How was your day? With what are you struggling? With what can I help you? About what can we pray together?**
- Plan holidays, without friends, just the family so that you can bond.
- Have celebrations on birthdays and special days / events they will never forget.

#### **4. Teach your children how to live.**

- Teach them to read, even before they go to school. Teach them to pray, cook, listen, to celebrate when something good happens and to enjoy it, to be friendly, generous, respectful, how to prepare and deliver a speech, to solve conflict, to write, play and instrument or sport.
- Teach them how to relax without feeling guilty. Teach them to ask questions and to think for themselves.

What type of marriage do you want?

What type of intimacy and joy do you seek in your marriage?

How do you want to see your children grow up, having the type of values that are good.

For some women these teaching will mean a complete change in your schedule and lifestyle.

*(Prov 31:10) A capable, intelligent, and virtuous woman – who is he who can find her? She is far more precious than jewels and her value is far above rubies or pearls.*

- *(v.12) She comforts, encourages, and does her husband only good as long as there is life within her.*
- *(v.15) she rises while it is yet night and gets [spiritual] food for her household and assigns her maids their task.*
- *(v.17) She girds herself with strength [spiritual, mental, and physical fitness for her God-given task] and make her arms strong and firm.*
- *(v.18) She tastes and sees that her gain from work [with and for God] is good; her lamp goes not out, but it burns on continually through the night [of trouble, privation, or sorrow, warning away fear, doubt, and distrust].*
- *(v.25) Strength and dignity are her clothing and her position is strong and secure; she rejoices over the future [the latter day or time to come, knowing that she and her family are in readiness for it]!*
- *(v.26) She opens her mouth in skillful and godly Wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness [giving counsel and instruction].*
- *(v.27) She looks well to how things go in her household, and the bread of idleness (gossip, discontent, and self-pity) she will not eat.*

## **THE ULTIMATE MARRIAGE VOW**

- My husband, my treasure, from this day forward I take thee to be my constant friend and companion.
- To accept your flaws with understanding and grace as you also do mine, and to consider your priorities as I would my own.
- Seeking the will of the Lord for our lives, I give up my need to be right knowing that we're on the same team.
- I will honour you as the head of our home, loving you with a pure heart and speaking well of you in front of others.
- I vow to protect your reputation, to love you, and to listen to your heart in the best way I know how.
- I'll walk through this life with you as a woman of strength and integrity, and do my best to guard our castle from harm.
- Celebrating your strengths, I trust God with your life.
- Loving you without expectation and planting my days with hope, I'll seek to understand and embrace the differences that we have.
- I will lovingly bear with you, remaining true to our lifelong commitment.
- Always upholding our marriage in prayer, I vow to honour and respect the man that you are both today and throughout all our days on this earth.



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If you would like to speak to someone about your situation, we would love to help you and pray with you. Please contact the El Shaddai FGC Offices or you can email us at [info@taniab.co.za](mailto:info@taniab.co.za)