

THE ACCOMPANIST

SHARING IN CHRIST'S SERVITUDE

Man needed her, but for a time his need was left unmet. Among all of the living things God had created, *“there was not found a helper comparable to him”* (NKJV). Then he awoke. She, whom he had sought after, stood before him. She was the embodiment of everything that appealed to him. Suitable she was. In fact, she was perfect for him; given directly from the hand of God. In form and appearance, temperament, and capabilities she was indeed *“very good.”*

Today woman is *still* truly fitting and fully adequate for man. But on the day she indulged her pride by attempting to add to her God-given role, the relationship between husband and wife changed. The consequence was issued partly in the form of subjection to her husband. As we learned in Lesson One, woman would spend the rest of her days attempting to dominate over and exalt herself above her husband. Times haven't changed; she is still insisting on her own way.

As followers of Christ, we are exhorted to do just the opposite. Attitudes and behaviors that *should* mark the Christian wife have now become descriptive only of the servant of God. By separating these two roles, the Christian wife has fallen desperately short in her God-given task. But as you will see, it is the wife that counts herself nothing, the wife that rejoices in becoming and being counted the least, the wife that seeks only to be the servant, the helper, and the comforter of her husband—the wife that unites these two roles—that is truly fulfilling the call of Christ.

Mark 10:43b-45 says, *“Whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many”* (NKJV).

What sort of emotion does this verse create in you when applied to your husband?

Have you justified these feelings in spite of God's infallible Word? How? _____

Comparable

Let's begin by gaining a fuller understanding of our role as it is intended to be. Read Genesis 2:15-25.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:8-9. For whom did God create Eve? _____

Describe what Adam needed in a helper. (Also read Genesis 1:26-31.) _____

According to Genesis 2:23, what did Adam first notice about Eve? _____

Eve was like him. The word translated “*comparable*” in verses 18 and 20 indicates that there was no one with whom Adam could stand face to face, as if in a mirror, and say “truly fitting and fully adequate.”

God created Eve to meet Adam’s multiple needs. Before she was created God called her “*helper*” or “*helpmeet*.” What do you believe this role is to look like? _____

A helper is “one who assists and serves another with what is needed.”¹ Woman was and is to be an assistant, aide, collaborator, co-worker, colleague, and partner.

The King James Version of the Bible translates the word “*helper*” as “*helpmeet*.” A helpmeet is by definition a companion.

To gain further understanding of our role as “*helper*,” let’s take a closer look at what it means to be a companion. A companion is “one that accompanies another, one that is closely connected with something similar, and one employed to live with and serve another.”² This means that our responsibility is to offer “security, comfort, understanding, reassurance, and help.”³ As our husband’s companion, we are to *go along with him* to offer support.

It is important to note that a woman’s role is no less valuable or less important than a man’s—it is simply defined differently. How does 1 Corinthians 11:11 attest to this?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:3. Do you trust God regarding the order He has established? Why or why not? _____

What personal assurance do you have in allowing your husband to take the lead?

The word “*helpmeet*” in Genesis 2:18 and 20 can also be translated “*succor*” which means “a relief.”⁴ By being anything other than the helpmeet God intends, you are adding to the burden your husband already carries. Simply stated, if you are not a help you are a burden.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 illustrates the value of companionship. Does this passage describe your companionship to your husband, or does it bring to light your failings as his helpmeet? How? _____

The Servant of All

Call a wife helper, call her collaborator, call her partner, and she is esteemed by such a description. But, call her servant and her flesh will scream with injustice at the discrimination, belittlement, depreciation, condemnation, and criticism she perceives. The mere thought of such a term in relation to the man she sees as her equal causes her flesh to turn inside-out.

As was stated earlier, we have laid aside the characteristics that should describe us as Christian wives. We no longer invite the self-sacrificing attitudes and behaviors Christ has taught us, but instead we entertain those of self-gratification. Could it be that our marriages are being lost because we are trying to hang on too tightly to our own lives?

Read Matthew 16:24-27. According to verse 24, what three characteristics should mark the servant-wife? _____

As a helpmeet, what does it mean to “*deny yourself*” and “*take up your cross*”?

What will result if you continue to hang on to your rights and your will? _____

Turn to Philippians 2 and read verses 3-8.

Selfish ambition is acting on your personal desires without considering the impact it will have on your husband. Read James 3:16. What will exist where selfish ambition is allowed to fester? _____

According to verses 3 and 4 of Philippians 2, what attitudes promote unity in your relationship? _____

Read Romans 12:1-5.

In order to follow this command, we must first be willing *to make* the sacrifice required to be the helpmeet God desires. Secondly, we must be willing *to be* that sacrifice. A “*living sacrifice*” is left with the option to walk away from the altar on which it is placed. But the sacrifice that is acceptable to God is not one that walks away, but instead lays aside its will, trusting God for the results of its obedience.

Continue reading in Romans 12, verses 9-21. The characteristics of a living sacrifice are many. Which behaviors do you feel you are lacking in regards to serving your husband?

The reality is that you can’t be a help to your husband if you are not willing to serve. You can’t be a “*helper*” without laying down your rights and will. You can’t be a “*helpmeet*” if you are not willing to put your ambitions aside. And you can’t be a “*companion*” if you are not willing to support your husband and allow him to take the lead.

What an honorable position the servant-wife has been given—if she will humble herself and embrace her role as her Lord and Savior did—making “*Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant*” (Philippians 2:7, NKJV). As helpmeet and companion, the woman is privileged to share in Christ’s servitude and sacrifice. Luke 22:27 says, “*Yet I am among you as the One who serves*” (NKJV).

In closing read, John 13:1-17.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. At this time, do you believe your husband could look into your eyes and say, “You are truly fitting, *and* you are adequately meeting all my needs”? Why or why not?
2. Let’s turn the tables. With the knowledge you’ve obtained about what it means to be a servant-wife, could you look into a mirror and say, “I am truly fitting, and adequately meeting all my husband’s needs”?
3. Do you struggle with allowing your husband to have control in a particular area of your relationship? (This may include areas of decision making, finances, etc.)
4. With this area in mind, is it because you feel that he is incapable of fulfilling the role God has given him?
5. Are you a hindrance or a companion? If your husband senses a lack of security, comfort, understanding, reassurance, and help on your part, he in turn will react with insecurity, distress, and timidity. At times he will even appear to be insensitive. What steps can you take to assure him of your support?
6. A close friend once said, “I realized that I was the one keeping my husband from being the man God intended for him to be. I just needed to get out of the way.” How can you “get out of the way,” thus enabling him to step into his role?
7. Will you trust God for the outcome?
8. A “*living sacrifice*” is described as one willing to *make* the necessary sacrifice and one willing to *be* that sacrifice. First, identify what sacrifices you need to make to be a Christ-like helpmeet. This may prove painful on your part.
9. Secondly, are you willing to “stay on the altar” regardless of the means God chooses to cut away your flesh? (See Deuteronomy 30:6.)
10. As you read through Romans 12:9-21, you were to make a list of Christ-like behaviors you feel *you* are lacking in regards to your marriage. How do you think the absence of these behaviors has affected your marriage?
11. In Philippians 2:5-8 we are exhorted to “*let the mind be in [us] which was also in Christ Jesus*” (NKJV). Are you willing to humble yourself in order to *help meet* your husband’s needs?

¹ Swanson, James: *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)*. electronic ed. Oak Harbor : Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997, S. DBLH 6469, #1

² Merriam-Webster, Inc: *Merriam-Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*. 9th ed. Springfield, Mass., U.S.A. : Merriam-Webster, 1985, c1983

³ West, Julie. *Shame Destroyer*. 2008.

⁴ Strong, James: *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order*. electronic ed. Ontario : Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996, S. H5828