

COLLISION

Steering Clear of Collisions in Marriage:

Submission & Roles

Ephesians 5:21-33

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When we operate within the parameters of God, we can steer clear of relational collisions.

Ephesians 5:21, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (NIV)

Both the husband and wife are to submit to one another.

Ephesians 5:22-24, "22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything." (NIV)

Men and women were created to be different. (Gen. 1:27)

Men and women are different, but equal. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:23)

Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (NIV)

The husband needs the wife. The husband is insufficient without the wife. (Gen. 2:18)

It takes both a man and a woman to reflect God's image. (Gen. 1:26-27)

It takes both a man and a woman to rule and advance God's mission in the world. (Gen. 1:26, 28)

Husbands and wives are different, but they were created to correspond and complement one another so there could be oneness. (Gen. 2:18)

Men and women are equal in essence, but are different in function. They have different roles.

Husband's Role: Head

1 Corinthians 11:3, "But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God." (NIV)

The husband was to lead the wife spiritually in God's mission. (Gen. 2:15-17)

Headship is an issue of responsibility, not superiority or capability.

Headship is not an excuse for the husband to do what he wants to do but an empowerment to do what he needs to do.

Wife's Role: Helper (Gen. 2:18)

Genesis 2:18, "The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'" (NIV)

The wife was to complement the husband practically in God's mission. (Gen. 2:18)

Applications:

The wife respects her husband's leadership.

Ephesians 5:25-30, "25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church – 30 for we are members of his body." (NIV)

The husband loves his wife by sacrificing for her, sanctifying her, and satisfying her.

Servant Leadership: Taking initiative for the benefit of others.

Ephesians 5:33, "However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." (NIV)

The different needs of husbands and wives require different roles.

He needs respect and she needs love.

Will I accept my role to meet my spouse's need?