

The Christ-Honoring Family, Part 7: Excellent Wives Part 1: Steve Swartz
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Selected Scriptures

- **Wives:** are to be focused on overcoming their tendencies to sin by living with a critical spirit and controlling heart over her husband and children. See Prov. 31:10.
- The attributes of a godly wife are found throughout NT teachings concerning marriage. Submission is the sum of the godliness of a wife who is following Christ. Eph. 5:24, in everything, as unto the Lord.
- The effects of sin's curse in a fallen world: Contentiousness, combativeness, or manipulation of a woman towards their husbands from Gen 3:16. a) It hits the home, she has born children in pain who are sinners. b) She will be contentious with her husband. "Your desire will be for your husband," this is not the case of affection for her husband and desire for him, it is not in the text. Some say submission is the curse, but Eve was made for Adam, those roles are not a curse given by God. It can be translated "against" or contrary to him. It is her desire to control her husband.
- Scriptures are given to throughout to deal and overcome this curse.

Wives, Don't Argue with Your Husband: Proverbs has a lot to say about principles that those who obey are wise and those who reject them are fools. Eph. 4:20-24, to put off the old man and to put on the new man in righteous and holiness in truth. Contentiousness and reviling are rampant in the Christian marriage and have been normalized in the home.

8 Spiritual Tools to Defeat Contentiousness to Alleviate the Power of the Curse by the Holy Spirit:

It is not to eliminate disagreements but to work together to remedy them. Two realms of authority: 1) An argument can ensue in relationships between two equals. 2) When one is in authority over the other and discover a difference of opinion.

1. **Moderation:** Prov. 9:13, "The woman of foolishness is boisterous," being loud at the wrong times. The unmoderated woman uses being loud to control the situation. Moderation considers others and the correct timing. Don't overwhelm your husband with words and complaints.
2. **Self-Adjustment:** Prov. 11:22, "As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, so is a beautiful woman who turns from discretion." She needs to bring taste, perception, and order to a conversation to be pleasing to the Lord that is useful and timely. To pray and think before speaking.
3. **Construction:** Prov. 14:1, "The wise woman builds her house, but the woman of folly tears it down with her own hands." Don't emotionally punish everyone when unhappy. She builds safety, routine, and hospitality in her home. The home is safe for husband and children without contention and strife.
 - a. The warnings to women about contentiousness far outweigh other warnings to men in Scriptures.
4. **Blessing:** Scriptures about woman who cause strife and contention: Prov. 27:15-16 and 19:13 (a constant dripping). Admonitions are given to wives because of the authority given by God in the family to submit to her husband. Gen. 3:17, Adam submitted to his wife and God cursed his work and it led to physical death.
 - a. "It is better" statements for men to consider in Prov. 21:9, 19, 25:24. These are instructions for men to remove themselves from the situation rather than to continue on to try to stop it through violence or abuse.
 - b. How do women defend against harshness? Prov. 15:1, a soft or gentle answer turns away wrath.
 - c. It means defeating contentiousness by using words that are a blessing, regardless of what anyone else says. Respond with grace, Col. 4:6.
5. **Preparation:** There are times to confront a brother in Christ, your husband, without sinful confrontation. Prov. 31:26, "She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the instruction of lovingkindness is on her tongue." Tips for preparing to talk to your husband: a) Don't confront with multiple issues at one time, be judicious. b) It is not your job to perfect your husband. c) If the motive is not love, don't correct him, Eph. 4:15.
6. **Brokenness:** Titus 2:4-5, gives instructions to woman. If a woman is still fighting their husbands, they haven't yet been broken from the gift of salvation given by Christ and isn't responding in loving obedience to their Savior. Contentions will end with loving obedience to Christ.

7. **Quietness**: 1 Tim. 2:11-12, in the context of the church, a woman is to have a peaceful acceptance of authority, to trust that the authority they submit to is also under authority to God. Just like masters with their slaves who have a Master in heaven, Col. 4:1.
8. **Respect**: 1 Peter 3:1-4, “they [husbands] observe your pure conduct with fear.” This is the opposite of a contentious woman in Proverbs: Not full of words. Not disrespectful. Not harsh, noisy, and arrogant. If she waits to obey the Lord, she will never find enough reasons to respect her husband.
 - a. The challenge to women: without a word, show love and respect to your husband, because Christ commands it. It will bring peace to your marriage.
 - b. A woman who fears Yahweh, she shall be praised, Prov. 31:30.
 - c. The grace of God and the glory of God will be demonstrated by obedience to Christ’s commands.

Further Discussion and Application

For women, what are some ways that you have failed to encourage and respect your husband and Godly authority in your life? How can the Lord be blasphemed when you disrespect your husbands and cause contention in the home? For men, how have you reacted harshly to your wife when she brings a concern and care to you? What will you need to do to better listen to your wives and not be harsh towards them?

Speaking with grace and blessing is the command to all believers. It is based in love for Christ and then in love and preference to others, thinking of them more important than yourself. How does Philippians 2:1-8 show us the proper motivation in showing love for others? How does the death of Christ demonstrate the ultimate end of true submission to His Father? Are we commanded to take up our cross and follow Christ daily? How would this apply to speaking loving and gracious words to others? How do we obey Him with our speech and care of our wives and families?

Brokenness is a wonderful result of the grace of God and salvation through Christ. Why does a broken and contrite heart honor the Lord? As we think of the blessings we have received from God through Christ, why must we practice demonstrating that love and concern for others? How to prefer others better than ourselves? What will others see in our lives as this transformation takes place?

In Eph. 4:20-32 Paul reminds the church of the Christ they have received. Who is the Christ we have received? Do we demonstrate the Christ we have been given?