God’s Design for Christian Marriage – Part 2
Ephesians 5:21-33

Ephesians 5:22 - 22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. NASB

1. **God’s original design for woman’s role** - sinless woman, full of love, in her joyful, ______________ support for man’s leadership (John Piper)

2. **Biblical submission** for the wife is the divine calling to _______ and affirm her husband’s leadership and ______ carry it through according to her gifts (John Piper)

3. Genesis 3:16 - 16 To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you shall bring forth children; Yet your __________ shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you." NASB

4. This is one way the fall ________ God’s original design, which was rather for her to joyfully and actively support her husband’s leadership. She was not made to ______ his authority, and he was not made to _______ dominate, but rather, their roles were ________________ and they were to lovingly serve one another. See here then, the woman’s pathway back to God’s good role for her, is one of joyful affirmation and active support for his leadership.

5. Would God design and ordain something that was not _______ for us? It is God who has called us to marriage and designed it for our good and for His _________. When we rebel against our God ordained role, we only frustrate ourselves, __________ our contentment, and dishonor God. Let us acknowledge and affirm God’s design and be thankful to Him for it.

6. **to honor and affirm her husband’s leadership** – Because the husband’s role as head of the wife is authority which has been __________ by God, the wife should obviously honor that leadership. This honor should not just be merely _______ conformity but the inner quality of the heart! It should be sincere, not grudgingly, but rather glad and willing. This glorifies God! Even then as she honors her husband’s leadership in her heart, she should then acknowledge and affirm that leadership with her thoughts, ________ and actions.
7. Ephesians 5:33 - 33 Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she__________ her husband. NASB

8. Genesis 2:18 - 18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be ___________; I will make him a helper ______________ for him." NASB

9. Piper and Grudem - “Submission refers to a wife’s divine calling to honor and affirm her husband’s leadership, and help carry it through according to her gifts. It is not an absolute __________ of her will; rather, we speak of her disposition to _______ to her husband’s guidance and her ____________ to follow his leadership.

10. When you have a _______ respect for you husband, then you can gladly and willingly not only follow, but ___________ and support him in his leadership.

11. 1 Peter 3:5-6 - 5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to _______ themselves, being submissive to their own husbands. 6 Thus Sarah ____________ Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear. NASB

12. Also, God ______________ Christian wives by the Spirit to do this. This is a radical and supernatural Christian life that we are called to and we cannot do it in the energy of the flesh, or in human ______________. These things are accomplished by __________, and in the Spirit, and by the Spirit’s ____________.

13. One more important consideration is that marriage is often times much more about you becoming ________ than happy. We are in the process of being sanctified and marriage difficulties are often the chief ________ of godly character for Christians.

14. You see when a Christian wife ___________ her husband and children, when she is a sensible, pure and kind, being subject to her own husband and managing well the affairs of her household, her life brings __________ to the Word of God and the teaching of the Bible. See here what godly feminine __________ looks like, and how it is to be modeled and taught in the church.