God’s Design for Christian Marriage – Part 3
Ephesians 5:23-24

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 ________ calling to honor and __________ her husband’s leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts (John Piper)

3. And of this subject he gives a vivid picture of its disposition and its __________, “as to the Lord.” In the same way that she submits to the Lordship of __________, so also she should be subject to her own husband.

4. **1 Corinthians 11:3** - 3 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the **man is the ________ of a woman**, and God is the head of Christ. NASB

5. The __________ that the Holy Spirit provides for us to understand the wife’s submission to the husband is the church’s submission to Christ. Therefore, even as the Church honors and respects Christ, and willingly subjects herself to Christ as her leader, guide and head, so also should the wife honor, __________ and be subject to her own husband.

6. He is to be to her a **provider, protector, and shepherd**, giving leadership and **taking responsibility** for the overall __________ of the wife and her home, even to the extent that he would lose his own life to be this kind of “Savior” for her. And this is the kind of self-sacrificing __________ that God will call the husband to as the “head” in verse 25.

7. Now why does he do this? Is not the answer abundantly clear to us? That is...
   1) that because the women’s fallen nature is to rule and domineer the husband (Gen 3:16)
   2) and the devil will relentlessly ________ God’s original design (Rev 12:17)
   3) and because the world will continually seek to __________ the role of godly relationships (1 John 4:5)
   4) and because there is a God ordained ________ in the home (Eph 5:22-24)
8. See again the analogy used by Paul, in the _______ _______ that the Church is subject to Christ, “so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.” Now Paul not only tells us again of that Christ/Church analogy, but he adds that the __________ of that submission is “in everything.”

9. See here Peter does not __________ the pursuit of outward adornment or beauty, which of course is perfectly acceptable, even beneficial in so many ways, but he intends to show us that the real focus and the __________ of godly femininity is the “hidden person of the __________,” which possesses the “imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit.”

10.1 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 obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you ____ what is ________ without being frightened by any fear. NASB

11. Consider the many places in the New Testament where this is addressed, and therefore its _________ and priority that could not be any clearer. Ephesians 5:22 - 22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. NASB Colossians 3:18 - 18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. NASB 1 Peter 3:1-2 - In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. Titus 2:3-5 - 3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, 4 that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored. NASB

12. Remember, submission is not an absolute surrender of her will; rather, we speak of her disposition to ________ to her husband’s guidance and her __________ to follow his leadership. She may disagree with him but she can still have a spirit of submission, a disposition to yield. She can show by her __________ and behavior that she does not like disagreeing with him, but even so, she is willing to follow his guidance.

13. Luke 11:28 - But He said, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God, and __________ it." NASB