

PART SEVEN
YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND

Remember in "Wedding" the "We" comes before the "i" and the "we" begins with a capital letter.

Genesis 2:21-22	Our beginning
Genesis 2:24; Eph. 5:22	Our importance
Genesis 3:6	Our sin
Genesis 3:16	Our curse
Genesis 6:1-5	Our consequence for sin
[Tim. 2:12-14.	Our limitations today, and the reason.

God said he would make a "help meet" for Adam. What does that mean? The following taken from *The Voice of Evangelism* August 29, 1953, page 3, is very clear:

Recently, we asked a group of Christian workers what the expression "help meet" in Genesis 2:18 meant. Knowing that that expression is used so commonly in newspapers and literature with an evident ignorance of what the expression really means, we were not at all surprised to receive an indefinite answer.

The way that you usually hear it used, you would suppose that "help meet" were one word like "draw bar", but actually it isn't. The word "meet," here as in so many places in the Bible, means "suitable": Heb. 6:7; 1 Cor. 15:9; Acts 26:20; Matt. 15:26. In reality, then, what God said in Genesis 2:18 is, "I will make him a help suitable for him."

By way of comment, God created woman to be a help to a man. Without being accused of reverting to woman-slavery of former generations, let us emphasize the original purpose of God in creating woman; that is, she is to be a help to man. In these days when some women are more hindbersome than helpful, more lazy than ambitious, more headstrong than heart-willing, more problematic than useful, men need to be careful to choose helpers for life who will be helpful. And women themselves need to be sure they are filling the place God created them for.

Here are eight reasons why this course is taught, why this material was put together:

1. To help us fill our place more fully as Christian women.
2. To make us more pleasing to God.
3. To make us better helps for our hubbies.
4. To make our homes more blessed and happier.
5. To show the greatness of our job.
6. To lift homebuilding above drudgery.
7. John 10:10 - To help toward more abundant living.
8. To help us "adorn the gospel" Titus 2:10.

THE WIFE S PRAYER

O my God, Thou hast called me to this state of life, and it is the disposal of Thy providence that I should be joined in wedlock with Thy servant. I bless Thee, Lord, that Thou hast dealt well with me, and provided graciously for me. O continue Thy goodness to me, in giving me knowledge and grace to demean myself aright in this relation, that I may honor and obey the Lord in reverencing my husband, submitting to him in all things not forbidden by Thee, speaking of him, and to him, with such words to signify the high esteem and dear love that I have for him: and so comporting myself as to give him content, and increase his delight; that he may not only be satisfied with me, but take pleasure in me; and in any occasions of offence, with silence or soft, obliging words, let me quench the flames, so preserving peace. O give me the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit; such as may not only make me sweet and amiable at present, but also prevent all shameful and mischievous effects. O make me humble and modest, discreet and considerate, careful and diligent, faithful and constant, mild and patient; remembering not only the duty and comforts, but also the temptations and crosses of the married condition; and taking the worse with the better, as a part of my portion; still showing myself a follower of wise and pious matrons in all things of good report, however I am tried with prosperity or adversity.

Bless my dear partner, O Lord, with the best of Thy blessings and love him and keep him in Thy continual care til Thou bring him to Thy heavenly kingdom, O bind us both in faithfulness unto Thee as well as to one another and as we are on flesh, so make us of one heart, and of one soul that nothing but death may ever make a separation between us and let us not hold together only upon the worldly account, but also, and especially upon the religious and Godly to admire, and love, and serve and glorify and please Thee God, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

This prayer is over one hundred years old. I heard it read by Ann Davies at Eileen (Christ) Parks wedding shower in 1962¹ and wish to thank Ann for sharing it with us.

Marriage - In the Bible

Ephesians 5:22-24 The relationship of husband and wife.

Colossians 3:18-19 The relationship of husband and wife.

I Corinthians 7:1-17 Marital duties and obligations

Revelation 2:4 This tells us of a church which was being reprimanded for having left thy first love. How carefully guarded should the first love be in every home. It is the tender, precious feeling between the bride and groom, each being so eager to please the other, and so careful not to offend or harm each other. It is a feeling that should continue, but is so often left behind.

TEN RULES FOR A HAPPY HOME

1. Have patience with each other. (James 1)
2. Work together; Play together; Grow up together.
3. In all disputes avoid excited talk.

¹ Parts of this lesson came from Mrs. Word's later notes.

4. Do not conceal little differences until they accumulate to the breaking point. Discuss them calmly when they are little.
5. Be frank with each other.
6. Sympathy and mutual understanding are the pillars of the home.
7. Good humor in parting in the morning, and a cheerful greeting at night. (I suggest that you have school things ready for leaving in the morning. This avoids last minute rushes, and forgetting things.)
8. Share responsibilities.
9. Establish a home of your own.
10. Make bedtime prayers a review of the day, and never go to sleep without a clean slate. Ephesians 6:26.

These excellent rules may be summed up in the one word, Love. Long years ago similar counsel was given in the Bible. Read in the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians what the apostle Paul said of the qualities that make for happiness in our hearts and homes.

1. Love suffereth long, he said, and that means patience.
2. Love in Kind.
3. Love envieth not, which is generosity.
4. Love vaunteth not itself, and that is humility.
5. Love does not behave itself unseemly, which is courtesy.
6. Seeketh not her own, and is unselfish.
7. Is not easily provoked, which means being good-tempered.
8. Thinketh no evil, and is guileless. No jealousy.
9. Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, which is sincerity.

Love

(Contributed by a former member of the class)

I will be patient and kind. If there are little irritations, I will forbear and not be critical. I will not nag but I will encourage, and appreciate every good quality and deed which is his. I will show him all the little courtesies I would show a guest in my home for he is my love.

I will not envy him. There will never be a competitive spirit between us as to who can spend the money or whose relatives will be favored for we are one and shall face the world united in purpose and desires. Neither shall I let a jealousy eat at my heart and the heart of our home.

I will not be arrogant or conceited. Pride shall not rule my heart. There can be no bending of personalities where one has a superiority-complex. Let each esteem the other better than himself.

I will not behave myself unseemly or discourteously. I will not pout or be sullen. I will not fly off the handle. Neither will I be vulgar or rude, or boorish or rough.

I will not seek my own. I will not be selfish or self-centered. It will be *our* interests, no longer *my* interests or children or home or money or friends. Love does not insist on its own rights, but looks to the rights of the beloved. I will not think continually, Why didn't he do this to make me happy? What little thing or big thing can I do today to show him how much he means to me. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for life is short. Happy marriages do not happen. They are made with unselfish love.

I will not be easily irritated or provoked with his failings and his faults. When he is late for an appointment, I will not be grouchy. I will not lose my temper but have patience that cannot know defeat. A bad temper can be made sweet by love.

I will not take account of evil. I will not indulge in that wrecker of happiness and homes -- self-pity. I will not brood over slights or injustices. But I will select my memories and remember only the good. I will be too big to harbor wrong. Love is able to forgive, but unforgiveness will close the doors of happiness to me and also the doors of heaven.

I will not rejoice in unrighteousness but will rejoice in the truth. I will never be glad when he makes a mistake, for we are one. I will find no malicious pleasure in his failings nor continually draw his attention to them. But I will be glad in everything good about him and rejoice over his every success. I will never criticize him to others, but shield him from all attacks.

I will bear all things without resentment or bitterness.

I will believe all things and hope all things. I will put the best construction on everything he does. I will face the facts, but I will look on the bright and happy side. I will not be suspicious but trusting. I will have faith in him.

I will endure all things. Fidelity will be mine until the end. Even when disillusionment comes and I am downhearted, I will have courage. My love shall stand its ground and carry on. I will prize our marriage above all human contracts. I did not promise to stay with him until I get lonesome for my parents or until I find someone more handsome or until I find someone who can support me better, but until death do us part.

There are no reservations. This is for always. I will be affectionate and attentive and cherish his love. So help me God, Thou source of all love, to make our marriage a taste of heaven on earth.

Romans 12:10 -- In honor preferring one another. This scripture put to work in the home will prove to be a blessing day after day.

Both work together to take care of home and business. A real wife buckles on her husband's armor in the morning and soothes his fatigue and wounds at night.

Be careful of little things. Both husband and wife need to be very careful in this point. Anyone who is careful of dimes need not worry of dollars. Anyone who is careful of minutes need not worry of hours. Any wife and husband that are careful of little likes and dislikes, of little annoyances and disturbing things, of the pleasantnesses and disappointments, of the surprises, of the assurances of affection daily, of the things that provoke or chafe, of patience in all little things need not worry of big things.

LITTLE THINGS

It takes a little muscle; it takes a little grit.

A little true ambition with a little bit of wit.

It's not the biggest things that count and make the biggest show;

It's the little things that people do that make this old world go.

A little bit of smiling, and a little sunny chat.

A little bit of courage to a comrade slipping back.

It takes a kindly action and it takes a word of cheer;

To fill a life with sunshine and to drive away a tear.

Grant things are not the biggest things that make the biggest show;

It's the little things that people do that makes this old world go.

THE LITTLE THINGS

Oh, it's just the little homey things,
 The unobtrusive, friendly things,
 The "Won't-you-let-me-help-you" things
 That make our pathway light.

And it's just the jolly, joking things,
 The "Never-mind-the-trouble" things,
 The "Laugh-with-me-it's-funny" things
 That make the world seem bright.

For all the countless famous things,
 The wondrous record-breaking things,
 Those never-can-be-equaled things
 That all the papers cite,

Aren't like the little human things,
 The everyday-encountered things,
 The "Just-because-I-like-you" things,
 That make us happy quite.

So here's to all the little things,
 The done-and-then-forgotten things,
 Those "Oh,- it's-simply-nothing" things,
 That make life worth the fight .

A wise bride is one who loses her temper - permanently. Hal Chadwick

Learn to live within your income. Romans 13:8. Since debts are easier made than paid, keep away from them. Don't be so eager for "things" of the world that you drive your husband out of the ministry. Mr. Word says some women have "Wanton Eyes." Always wanting something. Learn the difference between "I want" and "I need." Many men are now working two jobs, robbing their children of the teaching and companionship they need because of a wife's "Wants." Beware of charge accounts. They are robbers and lead to unnecessary over buying.

Though simple and inexpensive, your home need not be shabby . What you have must not be unkempt. It can be clean and polished, clean and painted, clean and mended. Well cared for - not abused. Your home is seen by many, so have good taste and make it homey and pleasant. Buy things that are wise for your home and buy carefully; not just pretty, cute, ultra-modern, for the day. You are stewards of the nine tenths as well as the one tenth that is God's first right. Don't be "bargain poor." Did you ever hear, "Where can we borrow the money to pay for all we saved today?"

PRICE TAGS

On counter or on shelf you see, In any tradesman's stall;
 His wares alluringly displayed, With price tags on them all.
 The values true, or baubles bright, Our wants or whims suffice--
 Same may be bargains of real worth; Some dear at any price.
 Life, too, is like the tradesman's stall, Which caters to our need;

There we selections often make And price tags fail to read.
 The things of worth and value true Real bargains, we pass by,
 Attracted by some tinsel'd cheat, With price tags marked so high.

Those who in early youthtime gain A wisdom as to choice;
 In later years review their price And in their hearts rejoice.
 But those who fail to use a care Of how and what to buy;
 Through useless, bitter years repay A price that's far too high.

Keep your husband clean and neat and respectable. In choosing, look him over well! My mother has said, "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." "A woman is known by the husband she keeps," Grandma Word used to say.

In caring for his clothes keep them mended, all buttons on, collars clean, and keep the white things white. Bleaches are cheap, at least not too expensive. There are different types for all types of new materials. Keep his suits spot-free and pressed. Whether you polish his shoes or not see that they are shined,

If you are single and untidy for yourself it will be worse for two; dirty for yourself, worse for two; unmended for yourself, worse for two; drawers messy for yourself, worse for two. Learn to take care of your own things when there is just one to look after.

Learn to bear and forebear. A husband has his personal responsibilities and he must bear them. The wife can help share if needed, but must not under any circumstances add to them unnecessarily. Often we hear men worrying about their wives! How will she be acting today? Whiny, stubborn, fussy, rebellious, a balky horse? Why the "powder keg" attitude? How many bills did she run up today? Will I be kissed or slapped at home? Will she be home? If not where will she be?

Never "pout." Settle your differences quickly, calmly, in private, and with a sincere kiss of love, Let by-gones be by-gones and bury the hatchet. Don't leave the handle out.

Don't keep secrets from one another unless they are pleasant surprises birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Prove yourself worthy to be trusted. Prove him worthy of your confidence by trusting him. Secrets lead to jealousy. Where jealousy is, the devil lurks. Not even in business do partners have secrets. If both are involved, both should understand, and both should sacrifice . Be a safety deposit box. However, confidences of others must be kept secret if so asked.

Let prayer time together bring you indeed close together . Bring your problems to the Lord. Help understand each other's attitude toward problems. Devotion to God and to one another is so precious. "Homes that pray together, stay together. " Have a family altar where the parents and children pray together." Evening prayer with the children should become a habit. How could a praying couple, devoted to one another, ever show undue interest in another man or woman? (THE AWFUL TRIANGLE.) Yet ministers and ministers' wives have done it. It is a disgrace to the church, disobedient to God, disobedient to the marriage vow, and certainly unChristian loss of your own soul can result if such a thing is not repented of and restitution made . Even then the influence is never gathered up. Again I say - Pray together.

HOW TO PRESERVE A HUSBAND

(Found in an old cook book and published in Coronet, September 1957)

Be careful of your selection. Do not choose too young. When once selected, give your entire thought to preparation for domestic use. Some insist on keeping them in a pickle, others are constantly getting them in hot water. This makes them sour, hard to get along with, and sometimes bitter. Even poor varieties may be made sweet, tender, and good by garnishing them with patience, well sweetened with kisses. Wrap them in a mantle of charity. Keep warm with a steady fire of domestic devotion and serve with peaches and cream. Thus prepared they will keep for years.

(Given to me by Mildred Yoder)

THE "ONNA-DIAGAKU" OF THE JAPANESE WOMAN SUPERIOR WIFE IN JAPAN?

(From The Ladies Horns Journal, August 1959)

Tokyo, Japan

Dear Editors:

For three centuries the Onna-Daigaku was and (partly) still is the Bible of Japanese women, for its precepts are so definite that each one is a commandment. As the basis of the education and upbringing of a Japanese girl, the Onna-Daigaku may reveal why men who have known her often say that the Japanese woman is a "superior wife."

These are the most important precepts of the Onna-Daigaku:

1. A girl should be gentle, obedient, chaste, faithful, kind of heart and quiet. She should be more faithful to the precepts of her parents than a boy, and should prize the beauty of her heart more than that of her appearance.
2. A girl should observe the distinction between man and woman from childhood, and should not be shown or told of flirtation. She should not associate with anybody without the instruction of her parents.
3. Woman has to regard the home of her husband as her own. No matter how poor or humble her husband's home may be, she must not complain but consider it heaven-sent because of her misfortune. (BEING A WOMAN)
4. Woman should regard her husband as master. Her way lies in obedience. She should never be irritable, luxurious or rudely behaved. She should never contradict his orders; she should regard him as heaven. If he leads a dissolute life, she should advise him to the contrary, but never with anger.
5. Once she is married, a girl should more discreetly love and respect her parents-in-law than she does her own parents. Even though her father-in-law thinks ill of her or slanders her, she should not get angry, for such differences will be settled if she keeps dutiful and sincere.
6. It will be a woman's shame to be divorced. But there are seven bad acts for which she must leave her husband's house:
 - (1) Disobedience.
 - (2) Childlessness. (But if she is right minded she may adopt a child; nor need she leave when a concubine had a child).
 - (3) Licentiousness.
 - (4) Jealousy.
 - (5) Leprosy or other dread disease.
 - (6) Talkativeness and indiscreetness.
 - (7) Kleptomaniacy.
7. Woman should get up early in the morning and go to bed late at night. Even though she may have servants, it is in accordance with the manner of woman to do manual work.

8. Woman should not be overclean or conspicuous to attract the attention of others, nor shall she use conspicuous color or dye-stuff for her ornament or appeal. She should communicate with no young men other than her husband on business.
9. Being stupid in nature woman shall stay at home as much as possible. Seven out of ten women have the following mental defects: disobedience, resentment, slander, jealousy, and a shallow brain. These weaknesses place her beneath man and she must correct them by self-reflection. She should go nowhere without her husband's permission.
10. Woman must ever remember three obediences: to her parents as a child, to her husband as a wife, and to her son in old age. She should never get offended when she is despised or looked down upon, but should show prudence by forbearing criticisms. Then she will live long in congenial happiness with her husband and her home will be peaceful.

Understandably, the Ona-Diagaku is not followed to the letter in modern Japan, but much of its rigidity remains side by side with the new concept of equality.'

Sincerely, Yukiko Launois

(Can you understand from this why many American boys in the service chose Japanese women in preference American girls?)