

Jabari & Sally McDimar

The
**Glory of a
Woman**

“Learn How to
Display your
Inner Beauty
and **Transform**
Your **Marriage**”



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INTRODUCTION

GOD HAD A GREAT and glorious purpose for woman when He created her. Unfortunately, there is a great divide in the body of Christ over what the Bible says about women, due to certain passages. But is it any coincidence that the passages regarding women consistently seem to be hard-to-understand? And why is it that they lack continuity with the rest of Scripture? Indeed, the passages regarding women have one central theme. They are disjointed, nonsensical, and contradictory to God's Word – puzzling, to say the least. And because of this, they are either continually justified by those with their own biased opinions and questionable interpretations of Scripture, or they are endlessly reinterpreted in an attempt to make sense of them.

But the reason that the women passages just so happen to be problematic is because the translators have distorted God's Word to fit their own traditional way of thinking. Indeed, the passages regarding women contain subtle tweaks that change the meaning altogether. Therefore, no matter how many times one tries to justify or reinterpret the passages about women, they will always be confusing and will always contradict Scripture until they are correctly translated from God's Word.

There is no doubt that men have woven a web of lies throughout Scripture in regards to God's beloved daughters. But thankfully, God has safeguarded His Word from the manipulations of men. He has preserved for us a great abundance of evidence so that we may know the truth.

Many times when we think of the glory or the beauty of a woman, we only think of the outward picture. But as we will see in this book, the glory of a woman pertains to much more than just the outward looks. The Bible reveals to us what a beautiful woman really is and how her beauty is outwardly expressed to the husband and her family. God is looking for beautiful women today!

When we speak of the glory of a woman we are talking about her resplendent beauty and magnificence or excellence as a woman. We are speaking about the crowning honor and adoring praise of a woman's life. The term "*glory*" (doxa) can refer to something that is full of splendor and radiant beauty even as the heavenly bodies shine in their glory or magnificent splendor and brilliance (1 Cor. 15:41). This term can point to the majestic beauty and excellency of something. *As we will see, the true glory or beauty of a woman is manifested in her life, as she follows her design for womanhood or the way that God made her as a woman.* Her splendor and beauty is displayed as she lives in the manner that God has intended her to live.

In this book, we are going to deal with three areas that reveal the glory or beauty of a woman:

Her Creative design: There is the beauty of a woman living to serve her husband.

Her Marital Roles: There is the beauty of a woman living in submission to her husband.

Her Feminine Distinctive: There is the beauty of a woman living to display her womanhood before her husband.

My dear women, you have been entrusted with an honorable position and responsibility in the earth! But do you really understand it? Let's look at it together.

PART ONE

HER CREATIVE DESIGN

*“The first glory of a woman involves her ability
to serve her husband as a HELMEET”.*

Chapter One

THE GLORY OF THE MAN

*“For a man indeed ought not to cover [his] head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the **woman** is the **glory of the man**”*. 1 Corinthians 11:7

The man’s glory is the woman! What is this glory? Is it her facial appearance, her figure, her clothes, or something else? What is the woman’s glory, according to the Bible?

To be referenced as *“the glory”* is the ultimate of compliments. Just as the man reflects physical strength, the woman reflects beauty in its many forms.

Women are answers, not problems (Gen 2:18). Then the Lord said it is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him. This description of woman as the man’s glory was never meant to demean or belittle her role or feminine contribution. It was meant to uplift by assigning value and honor.

What is Glory? The word *“glory,”* in the Greek, is *doxa*. The definition is *“a highly favorable opinion and that which impresses it on the senses or the mind.”* Glory denotes magnificence, splendor, beauty, and wonder. Glory is further described as beauty that inspires feelings of wonder and joy. Doesn’t this perfectly describe Adam’s initial reaction to Eve?

He was awestruck by all she awoke in him. She was the reflection and image of all he had longed for but had yet to behold in his surroundings or himself.

So why have we used God's word to reduce women and label them inferior to men?

The devil does not want men and women functioning in healthy complimentary roles. He knows that if we realize the truth, he can't divide us any longer.

He wants the conflict between men and women to remain so we will continue to wrestle each other for power and position. If men and women learn how to complement and complete each other, then everyone and everything under their dominion will be benefited. *“Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. ¹² For as the woman [is] of the man, even so [is] the man also by the woman; but all things of God. 1 Cor. 11: 11-12*

This reiterates the need men have for women and vice versa. Both of them add value and meaning to every aspect of their lives. Women are created in the image of God, but bear a glory different from that reflected by men.

Men and women are equal, but not interchangeable. Women do not hold the position of first created but they hold the honor of the crowning finale.

The Bible never said it was wrong for woman to be alone, only that it was not good for the man to be left in charge by himself. Eve was his helpmeet, the one who made up for all he lacked. We should never doubt the value and importance of this role.

Do we get bent out of shape when we hear man referred to as the glory of God in 1 Corinthians 11:7, which says, *“He (man) is the image and glory of God?”* Does God use the dynamics of this relationship to dominate men?

No, it is simply a constant point of rejoicing for God. He looks at His magnificent creation, man and smiles! And yes, when he glances at you, daughter, he is captivated. Likewise, when man beholds the magnificence of the woman, he is enraptured. Does love dominate its beloved?

Here is the 1 Corinthians passage in context: *“For a man, indeed, ought not to be covering his head, being inherently the image and glory of God. Yet the woman is the glory of the man. For man is not out of woman, but woman out of man”*. 1 Cor. 11:7-8

God is invisible (1Tim. 1:17). To be known and appreciated by sensate creatures, He must be represented in the visible realm. His best representation in the universe is the human race, specifically, the only perfect specimen of this race—our Lord Jesus Christ. In the days of His earthly flesh, our Lord gave those with eyes and ears a highly favorable opinion of God. Thus, He was the glory of God. He was also a male, and still is. It is in this sense—the sense that a man is a member of the race that produced Christ—that any male besides Christ can be said to be God’s glory.

Not only is a woman the image and glory of God, she is also the glory of the man. She has a dual glory.

Where does this leave females? Are they not the image and glory of God? I will let scripture answer that question: *“So God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”* Genesis 1:27

Women, too, are created in the image of God. Therefore they, as well as men, are God’s glory. 1 Corinthians 11:7-8 is telling us something else that a woman is. Not only is a woman the image and glory of God, she is also the glory of the man. She has a dual glory.

Chapter Two

THE WOMAN'S DUAL GLORY

GOD REQUIRED GLORY so that sensate creatures could think favorably of Him. We easily grasp God's reason for this: He's invisible. Why does a male require glory? Can't he already be seen? There must be something else the male lacks. What is the male missing that, without the female, would lend to any onlooker an unfavorable opinion of humanity? Only five things that I can think of off the top of my head: 1) ability, 2) beauty, 3) kindness, 4) wisdom, and 5) mercy.

I do not mean to say that males lack these qualities, but that females possess them in such excess that they shine forth like the sun. A woman in union with a man gives the universe a better impression of that man than would be otherwise possible. The woman of Proverbs 31 demonstrates this. Her talents, to her gender, are innate.

I cite here the verbs credited to the Proverbs wife, and then contrast them with those native to the husband.

“Her spouse is acknowledged in the gateways, when he sits with the elders of the land” (Proverbs 31:23). The husband occupies an esteemed place in the community. How did he get there?

The last verse of this chapter, verse 31, reads: *“Give honor to her for the fruit of her hands, and let them praise her in the gateways for her deeds.”*

In the very same place where her husband sits, the wife is honored for the fruit of her hands and is praised for her deeds. My

conclusion: He is the fruit of her hands; he is one of her deeds. He is glorified in the gates because of her. Because of the many verbs she executes on his behalf, he is acknowledged. His glory is not his own; she authored it.

“Her spouse’s heart puts trust in her, so that he lacks no proceeds” (vs. 11). The husband’s proceeds are of her. In a sense, she is the proceeds. His glory results from what she has accomplished. She is his glory.

“She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household.” Women possess an endurance men don’t have. The Proverbs 31 woman multitasks, even before the sun. Men cannot successfully do this. Men can do only one thing well at a time; they can do two or three things badly. Males lack glory. They cannot provide for themselves a favorable opinion. This glory, this favorable opinion, is provided for them by the female. The female is their glory.

Woman is God's
testimony, on earth,
that He is beautiful.

A male without a female rarely realizes his full potential.

“She spreads out her palm to the humbled and puts forth her hands to the needy” (vs. 20). The humblest and needy among us are babies and children. Women not only further the race, they feed it, clothe it, and send it to school. Then they spread out their palms to other humbled and needy, such as the sick and elderly. More women are nurses than men. Why? Women simply care more about sick people. Women fix the people men hurt.

“She makes decorative covers for herself; her clothing is cambric and purple” (vs. 22). The only other reference to “decorative covers” in scripture is Proverbs 7:16-17. The seductress says to her suitor, *“I have decorated my divan with decorative covers, with bedspreads of Egyptian yarn. I have wafted my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.”* Whatever they touch,

women beautify. If something is decorated, a female did it. Wherever pleasant odors waft, do not seek the responsible male; you will not find him; he does not exist.

Females, not males, beautify themselves. Within them lies the potential for Godlike comeliness. It is Esther, not Mordecai, and not King Ahasuerus, who indulges in “*oil of myrrh*,” “*aromatics*” and “*beauty-treatments of the women*” (Esther 2:12). The phrase “*beauty-treatments of the men*,” in Scripture, is not to be found. It is not that men are already fair while women are not. Rather, men cannot be helped. Women possess a mysterious capability—an exclusive potential unknown to the opposing gender—to enhance their appearance. Already beautiful, they can be rendered sublime. From wells deep within them can be coaxed near-visions of God.

Woman is God’s testimony, on earth, that He is beautiful.

Because of woman, our species takes away the collective breath of the universe. In form and in face—truly—females are our glory. When the New Jerusalem descends from heaven, it does not please the spirit to compare it to a male, but to a female. “*And I perceived the holy city, New Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, made ready as a **bride adorned** for her husband*”. —Revelation 21:2

“*The woman is the glory of the man. For man is not out of woman, but woman out of man*”. 1 Corinthians 11:7-8

Woman, coming second, is not least. Glory, by nature, emanates from that which it glorifies.

Grace be upon all women, Amen.

Chapter Three

HER GLORY AS A HELPER

WHEN GOD MADE EVE, it was in order that she might be a helper suitable for man (Gen. 2:18). The glory of this ministry is seen, when we notice that the title of '*Helper*' is what Jesus used to refer to the Holy Spirit as well (John. 14:16)!

As the Holy Spirit invisibly and silently, yet powerfully helps the believer, even so the woman was created to help the man. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is '*behind the scenes*'. So is the woman's to be.

Proverbs 31:10-31 describes some of the characteristics of this virtuous wife. Her heart, hands and tongue are described as excellent.

Nothing is mentioned about her physical beauty or her feminine charms; for these are declared to be worthless and deceptive. It would be an excellent thing if all women and young girls, and especially young men considering marriage, realized this fact.

The virtuous woman described here, has a heart that fears God. This is the foundation for her whole life. She works with her hands, stitching clothes, cooking meals, planting trees and helping the poor (verses 13-22). She uses her tongue at all times with kindness and wisdom (verse 26). She is God-fearing, hard-working and kind - even if she is not beautiful. The glory of God is manifested through her pure heart, rough hands and soft tongue. (*Worldly women, in contrast, have an impure heart, soft hands and a rough*

tongue!). It is in these areas that God looks for women today to manifest His glory.

As a wife, this virtuous woman is a true helper to her husband. She does him good consistently till the end of her life - not in fits and starts (verse 12). In other words, she never loses her first love for him. She also adjusts herself to his profession and calling in life, supplementing his income with her own quiet labors at home, being thrifty and careful in expenditure, so that no money is wasted. She relieves her husband of home responsibilities, so that he can have a ministry in the land for the Lord (verses 23-27). No wonder her husband praises her saying that of all the women in the world, she is the best of the lot (verse 29). Such a woman certainly deserves to be praised publicly too (verse 31), for she has understood the glory of her calling as a home-maker.

Many women today become married and have various goals such as to maintain a job and keep their independence. They strive to fulfill their dreams and sadly forget about their number one creative purpose in life, which is to meet the needs of their husbands. A man needs a wife who is a help to him and not a hindrance to him in any way. She was designed to be a helper to the man in every area and phase of his life. She was designed to live for her husband, please him and follow him throughout life.

The glory of a woman is manifested when she becomes the kind of helper that her man needs in life. A man needs all kinds of help! He needs physical help (*sexual fulfillment*) and mental help (*mental encouragement*), domestic help (*home needs*) and even spiritual help, which can be demonstrated by a godly wife who is praying for her husband on a consistent basis and helping to raise the children in a spiritual manner. Woman is God's perfect design of beauty to help the man in every area in life where he struggles and has needs.

Chapter Four

HER GLORY AS SEXUAL BEING

A WOMAN WILL HELP a man by satisfying his natural physical desires and drives in life. This is something that no other animal could do for Adam.

*“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall **cleave** unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”* Genesis 2:24

The Hebrew word “*cleave*” speaks of clinging to, joining to, staying close to or sticking with. It was used of the monogamous sexual or physical relationship between a man and wife. It suggests the man’s need to be fulfilled physically in life and the marriage relationship. One focus of the wife should be to richly satisfy her man in this area of sex.

Proverbs 5:18-19 says, “*Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let **her breasts** satisfy thee at **all times**; and be thou **ravished** always with her love.”*

The woman, as a wife, must through prayer and study of the Scripture, realize that God has designed her as a sexual being to communicate her love to her man by meeting his physical drives and needs. Christian women must not think of themselves as a sex object but as a suitable companion that God has brought to their husband to meet his physical needs.

Hebrews 13:4 says: “*Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”*

God has instituted marriage and the bed of sexual ecstasy or fulfillment in the marriage relationship. Hollywood did not invent sex. God invented sex! Outside of marriage sex is sinful. But inside the marriage bond it becomes a beautiful gift whereby the woman, who fulfills her creative role, can express herself to her man in an open and wonderful way.

Ladies, God has created you to be the man's helper in this way. Your man needs help in this area of physical fulfillment. He needs a wife who is willing to become the kind of lover that God created her to be so that she can fulfill her man's physical needs in life. And in such a sex-crazed world in which we live, when men are bombarded with sexual temptation on every side, it becomes the man's joy and delight to find complete physical fulfillment in his wife. The glory of a woman is manifested, when as a creative lover, she gives herself to her man wholeheartedly and without reservation.

The Shulamite in the Song of Solomon was aware that God created her as a sexual or physical being and she found how wonderful it was to openly express herself to her husband within the marriage relationship. She said, "*Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine.*" Song 1:2. And again in Song 4:16, "*Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.*"

These are expressions of the physical relationship in the marriage. This woman realized her creative design to meet the physical needs of her husband and opened herself up to the sexual woman that God created her to be. She wanted to be the creative lover to her husband that God designed her to be.

“I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me. Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field; let us lodge in the villages. Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give thee my loves.” Song 7:10-12

As a wife, you must give yourself the permission to be a sensuous woman in the marriage relationship. Like Eve, God has brought you to your man to fulfill this great physical need in his life. As a wife, when you choose to unconditionally love your husband in this way, you not only honor God but also make your husband's life fulfilled and content in the physical realm.

Ladies, being godly means to have a godly attitude toward the Scriptures and what God wants you to be and do in life. And part of your godly attitude and godly living involves giving your body to your husband. This is God's creative design or role for your life. God wants you to focus on your husband and meet his physical needs. Your goal in life should be to minister to your husband.

God has made you a *“help meet”* for your husband. And your husband needs a helper in life. He longs to have you meet his physical needs in life. Christian women, who believe what the Bible says, must constantly keep God's perspective on this matter. You may need to reprogram your mind and once again rededicate yourself to God's creative purpose for your life so that you can become all that God wants you to be for your husband.

As a *“help meet”* in life a woman will also aid her man by becoming what someone has called a *domestic engineer*. In other words, she will become a *domestic housewife* fulfilling those needed home duties that will help the man to function (Titus 2:5). Her home responsibilities become a revelation of her glory and beauty as she fulfills her creative role to be a helper for the man (1Timothy 5:14). The wife

will also help the man to accomplish his goals in life instead of her own. She will want the man to excel in what he does and assist him in any way that she can. She will also help a man by encouraging him and praying for him when he struggles in life or when he becomes discouraged. She will help her man by becoming everything to her man that he needs to have in order to function, excel and find fulfillment in life.

Chapter Five

HER GLORY AS A HOMEMAKER

“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.” Proverbs 31:10-12

THIS “VIRTUOUS” OR INDUSTRIOUS woman is fulfilling her creative design when she stands by the side of her husband and meets his needs. She is seen meeting his domestic needs by supplying food on the table and providing the necessary home life that a husband needs to be able to function in life. This woman is seen to be there for her husband in every way and is willing to reach out in any way possible to make his life easier.

“She looketh well to the ways of her household (not his household), and eateth not the bread of idleness.” Proverbs 31:27

When the woman performs her domestic duties effectively, this in return helps the husband to perform his own secular duties more effectively. He will be able to excel in his own job and work.

“Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.” Proverbs 31:23

When the woman finds her God-given role within the home setting, it's then that the man can become known as one who excels in his own job. This is actually a credit to the wife who is fulfilling her own creative role in the home. Her life should revolve around his life so that he might move forward and excel in

whatever he does. This is a very beautiful picture of the woman who understands her creative design and wants to be the man's helpful companion in life. And this woman is compared to rubies because she is beautiful and priceless to him!

In this Proverb picture of wisdom, we see how God wants the glory or the beauty of a woman to be expressed as she meets the domestic needs of the man. God has created the woman for the man and this is clearly seen not only when she meets his physical needs but also his common domestic needs in life.

Some women work at changing a man, and when they have changed him, they don't like him. Many times the woman needs to simply meet the man where he is at in life and seek to fulfill his needs. This is the creative beauty of a woman. And unless a man is totally selfish he will respond favorably to any woman who reaches out to him in this way. He will reward her with praises and blessings in life because of her loving companionship.

1 Corinthians 11:9 reiterates the Genesis principle: "*Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.*" Every woman must remember this. Paul goes back to Genesis or the beginning to remind the women in Corinth about God's creative design. When they lose sight of God's true purpose for their existence and God's highest goal for their life, it's then that fireworks begin to happen in a marriage relationship. Roles become distorted and chaos can easily abound.

The woman was created for the benefit of the husband. She was designed by God to be an aid to him in every way possible. A woman should not lose sight of why God created her. If she does, then the marriage relationship will become strained and out of

sync. This is true for the new marriage as well as the marriage of many years.

Over the years a woman may be tempted to lose her *creative focus* in life and begin to strive to live independent of her husband. But she must continually remember where the true beauty of a woman resides! Never lose sight of this fact in light of the modern feminism of our day and the push for women to strive for independence and freedom from relationships and responsibilities in the home. This simply is not Biblical.

Genesis 2:22 once again reads: “*And the rib, which the **LORD** God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*”

Merril F. Unger wrote: “*What beauty and dignity are accorded woman in this account! No casual or hasty production of nature, she was finished result of the labor and skill of the divine Artificer.*”

The lovely truth that says God “*brought her unto the man*” indicates that although she is equal in creation there was not to be an equal purpose in creative roles. She was brought unto the man to be his helper as God had said. The man was not specifically designed to be her helper. The woman was designed to be his helper. The woman was brought unto the man to live for the man. This is her creative design. And when a woman begins to move away from this design in the marriage relationship there is chaos, disorder and dissatisfaction.

Ladies, where is your heart these days? And in what ways have you been helping your husband? Has he been looking for your help in some specific area of life? Are you willing to give your life for his? In what ways can you fulfill your creative purpose in your present marriage? What does your husband need that you may not be giving to him? It might be more domestic help in the home. Do

you wash his cloth for him and make sure that a good meal is on the table for him at the end of the day? You might need to give him some added encouragement since he may be discouraged about the way his job is going at the present time. Is there some specific help that your husband needs for his present journey in life? It might be greater physical fulfillment in the marriage relationship. Have you asked him about this matter of physical fulfillment? You may need to open up your heart and life to the sexual woman that God created you to be for your husband. Perhaps your husband needs the spiritual assistance of prayer as he seeks to do God's will. Ladies, do you really stand by your husband in prayer? Whatever it is ladies, God expects you to help your husband as his God-given companion in life. Help is the adjective that describes the woman's existence!

Perhaps you need to start praying in a new way as a wife. Maybe you need to pray that you will be the kind of beautiful woman that God has designed you to be. You can pray that you will be open to God's purpose for your life and that you will start opening yourself up to become the kind of woman God created you to be as a physically lover, domestic helper and constant companion or friend to your husband. Remind yourself that when your earthly father brought you down the isle to give you away to your man that there was also a heavenly Father walking you down the isle ready to give you away "*unto the man*" (Genesis 2:22). God brought you unto your man so that you might stand by his side as his constant helper and aid in life! That is beautiful! And the heavenly Father expects you to become the woman that He has created and designed you to be for the man of your dreams.

Ladies, stand by your man! Stand by him in the thick and thin of life. Stand by him in the ups and downs of life. Stand by him and

be his helper and satisfy his deepest longings and those needs, which may seem small to you, but rather large to him. Don't miss the real purpose for your existence! God wants you to be a constant aid to him and not become a hindrance to him. Your beauty is found in following God's creative design and purpose for your life as a woman. Your glory, beauty or excellence as a woman is outwardly manifested when you follow God's creative role for your life.

“She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.” Proverbs 31:12

The woman's role as a *“help meet”* highlights the true glory or beauty of a woman. The beauty of a woman is manifested when she acts like a woman and gives her life to her man. A woman by creative design is the man's helper and only when she practices this role can she manifest the true beauty of a woman.

PART TWO
HER MARITAL ROLES

*“The second revelation of the glory or beauty of a woman involves her
SUBMISSION to her husband”.*

Chapter Six

HER INNER BEAUTY

WE LIVE IN A STRANGE world today where God's roles for the marriage and His creative designs for womanhood are being mocked and forsaken. As Christian women, I challenge you to take heart in God's eternal truth for your life and mold your life to God's Word and His will. Following God's role for your life will produce eternal reward and blessing for you (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). Yielding your bodies to God's purposes for your lives will result in great eternal dividends. The beautiful woman lives for the future as she fulfils her creative role in the marriage.

We must remember that submission in the marriage relationship does not destroy the equality of the sexes. Both Adam and Eve were created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) and both were on the same human level possessing intelligence far above the lower beasts. Both were created with the same capacity to worship God and commune with the Creator. There is equality in the sexes. The fundamental teaching of the Bible does not deny this. The problem with the feminist movement of today is that they want to ignore and obliterate the roles within the marriage relationship. Their aim is to restructure homes and society on the basis that men and women have equal roles in a marriage unit. We must understand that "*there is equality in human creation but there has never been equality in marital roles*". There is a clear chain of authority given in the Bible for the family institution. And this chain exists not because men are superior to women in any way but simply because God instituted it for functional design within the home.

“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning (beauty) let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.” 1 Peter 3:1-6

This passage portrays the beauty of a woman in connection with her inward submissive spirit toward her husband. The word “*adorning*” (Greek – “*kosmos*”) means her design of beauty or attractiveness which these husbands will see in their wives. The sense is, “*Make sure your primary beauty is found in your heart and not merely in your clothes and jewelry.*” These verses should not be twisted to condemn the use of cosmetics or jewelry. If this were the case, then Peter forbid women to wear apparel or clothing! Peter is obviously warning against excess outward adorning or what we might call overdoing a good thing – the excess braiding of hair, excess wearing of jewelry or extravagant clothing. Peter did not state that women should not wear jewelry and nice clothes, but that Christian wives should not think of outer attire as the source of genuine beauty.

Of course, this does not mean that a wife should neglect herself and not try to be up-to-date in her apparel. The industrious woman of Proverbs chapter thirty-one was aware of how she looked or presented herself before her husband.

“She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple (beautiful or attractive).” Proverbs 31:22

Any husband is proud of a wife who is attractive and keeps herself outwardly beautiful for him to gaze upon. I have never known a man who wanted an ugly duckling for a wife! And as a woman seeks to serve the man and give herself fully to him she will find it her loving privilege to keep herself attractive for her man. She has this inbred trait or desire to keep herself beautiful for her man. This is something God has built into a woman. Nevertheless, Peter’s text simply means that a woman is not to major on being a fashion star just to keep up with the world or crowd. These verses merely emphasize that, as far as God is concerned, it is more important to have a meek and quiet spirit than possessing an elaborate outward display of beauty. They simply convey what is most important to God.

The inward beauty of the heart is more important than the outward beauty of the body. Peter is saying that in order to become a beautiful woman you must learn to be beautiful on the inside. The glory of a woman is found on the inside of her heart – *“the hidden man of the heart”*.

This *“hidden man of the heart”* refers to the true inner self of a woman, which is her unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. This kind of adornment of the inner spirit is of great worth (*“great price”*) in God’s sight. While the world prizes costly clothing and gold jewelry, a woman with a gentle and quiet spirit is beautiful and charming to God. Peter is talking about cultivating a spiritual beauty of the inner life.

But what is a meek (*“humble”*) and quiet (*“peaceful”*) spirit? It is that inward heart attitude of the beautiful woman who places herself

under her husband's authority within the marriage relationship. It is an inward humble decision to peacefully submit to the leadership of the man and follow your role as a submissive wife. According to Peter, this is a thing of beauty. This is something that is truly beautiful and expresses the true glory of a woman. When a woman has God's beauty – *a meek and quiet spirit* – she isn't threatening to those around her. Here is beauty that never decays, even when the outward body does. And this beauty is precious or of "*great price*" not only to her husband, but also to God.

F. B. Meyer notes: "*Plenty are there whose outward body is richly decked, but whose inner being is clothed in rags; whilst others, whose garments are worn and threadbare, are all glorious within.*"

Chapter Seven

HER SUBMISSION

OUTWARD GLAMOUR IS CORRUPTIBLE and decays or fades with time. But true beauty from the heart grows more wonderful as the years pass.

A Christian woman who cultivates the beauty of the inner person will not have to depend on cheap externals. True beauty is not purchased in a store with a charge card. It's found on the inside of a woman's heart when her inner self humbly and peaceably follows God's design for her life, which is submission. This tells us that godly submission begins on the inside before it will ever translate to the outside marital relationship.

Someone once said: *“A young beautiful woman on the outside is the act of nature but a beautiful old lady on the inside is a work of art.”*

Sarah is a good Old Testament illustration of a submissive wife who was first submissive on the inside of her heart.

“For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands.” 1 Peter 3:5

This account takes us back to Genesis 18:12 where we read that Sarah said this *“within herself.”* She did not go around and make a loud profession of submission to Abraham by publicly calling him *lord*. Rather, in her inward life and heart, she recognized him as her head, and this recognition was displayed by her outward actions of

submission. You see, submission begins on the inside before it can ever get to the outside!

Jill Briscoe said: *“In that moment as a new believer, I believe I stumbled on an important truth of what submission isn't. Submission isn't sitting down on the outside while you're standing up on the inside.”*

Ladies, your true glory is not found in a bottle of perfume or your closet full of clothing. It is found on the inside of your heart when you can in humility and quietness submit to your husband's spiritual leadership and decisions and become the woman of glory or beauty that God wants you to be. Ladies, God has promised to help you in this area of submission with the filling of the Holy Spirit. In fact, before Paul gives the command in Ephesians 5:22 for the wives to submit to their own husbands, he mentions about the filling or control of the Holy Spirit.

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”
Ephesians 5:18

Inward submission begins by the inward control of the Holy Spirit upon your life. And what a wonderful blessing it is to see marriages where the roles are not reversed and where godly women are humbly and peaceably submitting within their hearts to God's role and design for the marriage relationship. This will translate into a marriage where God is honored and where the marriage is a thing of beauty to God.

Let us not forget what 1 Peter 3:4 says about the act of submission: *“... which is in the sight of God of great price.”*

The charm and beauty (*“adorning”*) of a woman in her role of submission to her husband is a sight of beauty before the Lord. And God highly values this act of submission. God sees your

submission as a woman as something of infinite value or worth. God is watching your life of submission toward your own husband. What does He see? Does He see you as a wife of radiant glory and beauty because you have committed yourself to His plan of submission? God is still looking for beautiful women! Are you a beautiful woman in God's eyes and of immeasurable worth to Him because of your godly testimony as a submissive wife? Some women think jewels are precious but God considers precious the jewel of a gentle and quiet spirit of submission.

As a woman and wife you might ask yourself these basic questions:

- ❖ Have I been filled or controlled by the Spirit so that I can practice loving and humble submission?
- ❖ What areas of submission must I work on in my relationship with my husband?
- ❖ Am I going to be committed to being a submissive example to my husband even if he is unsaved (1 Peter 3:1-2)?
- ❖ What patterns must I change in my life in order to demonstrate this inward submissive attitude of humbleness and quietness before my husband?
- ❖ Must I stop trying to be the spiritual leader?
- ❖ Must I stop rebelling against what my husband suggests and thinks is important for the family?
- ❖ Must I begin to reprogram my mind about what is important and priceless to God?
- ❖ Must I recommit and rededicate myself to this wonderful plan and once again open my heart to my husband?

- ❖ Must I remember that God is watching me live the submissive life?
- ❖ What steps must I take to bring me back to this place where I need to be?
- ❖ How can I become a beautiful woman before my husband and the Lord?

PART THREE

HER FEMININE DISTINCTIVE

“The third revelation of the glory or beauty of a woman involves her ability to display her WOMANDHOOD to her husband”.

Chapter Eight

HER SYMBOL OF SUBMISSION

One of the sad marks of our society today is the unisex push where men want to look like women by wearing a woman's traditionally accept jewelry such as necklaces, bracelets and earrings.

We used to call men who did this kind of thing “*fairies!*” I'm sure you had a name for them in your own generation! Nevertheless, there is a serious push today to try and blend the sexes together in every way possible in order to rebel against God's design, de-emphasize the distinction among the sexes and the God-ordained roles of marriage.

Hair length is another way that the sexes are trying to promote the unisex philosophy of rebellion. Man simply wants to rebel against God's design. The similar hair cuts and hair styles between men and women today are promoting the unisex philosophy of life and demoting God's demand for a distinction among the sexes. Christian women today must be careful not to tailor their hair where it resembles a man's hair length and tends to represent a man's look. And ladies, don't try to fool yourselves. God expects you to obey the sign of submission that He has given to represent His divine order.

1 Corinthians 11:15 states: “*But if a woman have long hair, it is a **glory to her**: for her hair is given her for a **covering**.*”

Here is another aspect of a woman's glory or beauty. The Bible has something to say about the woman's hair length. When Paul deals with the woman's submission to the husband (*her head*) in 1 Corinthians 11:3, he also deals with the *sign* of that submission which is the woman's natural hair length. However, there was an additional custom practiced in Corinth, which mandated that women should wear an additional *artificial* veil when in public. In Corinth, a woman's artificial veil became an additional sign of her submission to her husband and her faithfulness to her husband in the marriage relationship. The artificial veil was also a general statement by all women of their submissive spirit to the church order that God had ordained for male leadership. The covering is symbolic, indicating the authority that exists above the woman which was the man.

In Corinth, it was not uncommon for prostitutes to shave their heads signifying their availability to the men in the streets. In that day only a prostitute or a feminist would shave her head. If a Christian woman rejected the covering that symbolized her submission in that culture, she might as well have shaved her head like the prostitutes practiced (see vs. 6). In Jewish law, a woman proved guilty of adultery had her hair cut off (Num. 5:11–31).

It would seem that some of the women at Corinth were stretching their liberty too far. They began to forget about local customs that shed light on a woman's submission to her husband and their submission to local church authority, which was invested in the men (1 Cor. 14:34-35). The forsaking of the veil in Corinth became a double sign of rebellion against the husband's leadership in the home. It would seem that a kind of feminist movement began to fester or smolder in Corinth as some of the women misunderstood about the true nature of Christian liberty.

The point seems to be this. The man honors his Head (*Christ*) by being uncovered, while the woman honors her head (*the man*) by being covered. She is showing her submission both to her husband and ultimately to God and His plan for her life when she follows the local custom of Corinth. When she fails to be covered Paul says that local custom dictates that she shames or “*dishonoureth her head*” (vs. 5) which means she brings shame and disgrace upon her own husband specifically who is to be her spiritual head. By her refusal to wear a veil she is saying, in effect, that she does not recognize man’s God-given headship and will not submit to it.

1 Corinthians 11:7 gives the reason why both the men and women should follow the customary procedures established in Corinth: “*For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.*”

Man was created in the image of God in a way that women were not created in His image. Both were created in God’s image, yet man was uniquely created like God to be a ruler. The glory of man then refers to the honor, dignity and exalted position which God gave to man, when He placed man on the earth as God’s ruling representative, to exercise dominion over the earth. And Paul reasons that the man’s *uncovered* physical head is a silent witness to this God given ruling glory granted to him. When a man keeps his head uncovered in the church assemblies he is demonstrating the wonderful truth that God has given him the right to rule and be a leader both in the family unit as well as the church. But the women in Corinth were to honor the local custom and remain veiled in their public life and the church services. This is because the women were never given this place of authority or headship. And by wearing this sign of submission (*the veil*) they could publicly manifest their submission to God’s order and design within their

homes and church life. The customary veil of Corinth was a beautiful outward expression of a woman's life of submission to authority.

“For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.”

Paul goes on to say that the woman actually becomes “*the glory of the man*” or a person of honor and dignity – someone of beauty and delight. But this glory is only displayed when the woman clearly reveals the authority that man has over the world. And she does this by her own submissive example toward her husband and God's divine order. In other words, a woman reveals the glory or honor of a man, who was designed by God to be a ruler, when she lovingly submits to the husband's rule over her life and does so by wearing the sign of this submission – the artificial veil. The woman's submissive example toward her husband in Corinth, through the wearing of a veil, sends a strong message to others that God has actually commissioned the man to rule – that God has given man this ruling glory of authority. Therefore, by the woman's own submissiveness she paints the picture that God has given the right for man to rule. Only by her own submissive spirit can the man's ruling glory become her glory. Through her submissive actions and customary veiling procedure in public, the woman actually becomes a reflection of the man's ruling glory, which God gave to him in his creative design. The submissive woman reflects the ruling glory of man, who was created in God's ruling image. So in one sense, there is a chain effect of revealing glory. Glory begins with God, is passed down to man, and then is reflected by women who submit to the man's authority. And this glory is once again a place of honor and splendor, which becomes a thing of beauty in God's sight. Once again we see that the glory

of a woman is found in her submissive role to the man. She reflects the man's ruling glory as she follows the example of submission. Beautiful women are submissive women.

So if a married woman abandoned this customary role to veil in Corinth, she also abandoned her glory (her own honor and dignity which was a thing of beauty) by refusing to reflect the man's glory through her life. For Paul an uncovered woman's head gave symbolic expression to a rebellious spirit within her heart concerning the headship of the man.

“For this cause ought the woman to have power (a sign of symbolic authority) on her head because of the angels.” 1 Corinthians 11:10

Paul reasons that the woman of Corinth should veil because the veil is a symbolic sign of power or “authority” on her head. This obviously means that the woman in Corinth should wear the symbol of the man's authority over her life. It was a sign that she was submissive to God's pattern and program for the marriage and even the church life. It was a public demonstration that let others know in Corinth that she was a *feminine* woman and not a *feminist* rejecting God's divine order of submission. The veil also signified that a woman was not a promiscuous woman but one who was faithful to her husband.

Paul goes on to talk about the angels (“because of the angels”). What did Paul mean by this statement? Obviously he was referring to the fact that angels are watching Christian women follow God's submissive design for their lives. This is because angels are also submissive beings under authority and they are interested in the earthly affairs of church life which are related to submission. Angels are spectators of the church (1 Cor. 4:9; Eph. 3:10; 1 Tim. 5:21). The reasoning of Paul seems to be that Christian women are

to set a good submissive example before those angels who are watching them. This is because angels are spirit beings that are also submissive servants to the Lord and are interested in the whole act of submission. In one sense, godly women who submit to their husbands set a good example for those angels who are also submissive beings.

Ladies, angels are watching you live out your life of submission! I wonder if they have been witnessing a good example of submission as they see you living in the daily routine of home life and as you function in the church life? Are those curious angels seeing a good example of creaturely submission? Do they see you demonstrating godly submission toward your husband? What kind of testimony do you have before the angels?

Chapter Nine

HER SUFFICIENT COVERING

YOU MAY ASK HOW all of this fits into the picture of a woman's hair? Well, Paul is going to reason that a woman's hair is a sufficient covering or veil for her sign of submission to authority. In a general way, it is true that nature gives women longer hair and men shorter hair. The Romans, Greeks, and Jews (*except for the Nazarites*) followed this custom.

Nowhere does the Bible tell us how long our hair should be. It simply states that there ought to be a noticeable difference between the length of the men's hair and the women's hair so that there would be no confusion among the sexes. This principle eliminates the so-called "unisex" hairstyles going on today. It is shameful for the man to look like a woman or the woman to look like a man. And if you can't tell *what* you are from the back then you have given into the unisex philosophy of today.

1 Corinthians 11:15 once again says: "*But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.*"

The woman's long hair is her glory, and it is given to her "*instead of a covering*" (literal translation). In other words, if local custom does not dictate a head covering, her long hair can be the replacement for the artificial covering. I do not think Paul taught in this passage that all women in every culture must wear an artificial head covering like those women did in Corinth. I don't believe that Paul is laying down an absolute law for women to wear artificial veils or coverings in all churches for all time. Paul asks us to "*Judge in*

ourselves” if it’s fitting or proper for women to wear a head covering in public life and ministry (vs. 13). Does your cultural setting in life dictate this? In Corinth it was a custom that should be honored. And perhaps in your own church fellowship it might be a custom that should be honored. If local custom dictates you to do so then by all means honor that custom. But if there are those who seek to press their own cultural custom and norms upon the entire church, then Paul says that we should be quick to inform that person about God’s mind. We should inform them how none of the churches of God were given this custom directly from the Lord. Local custom is not a command of God.

1 Corinthians 11:16 states: “*But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom (about women needing artificial veils), neither the churches of God.*”

Paul comes to this conclusion because God has given the *natural* veil of the woman as a sign of her submission to authority. There would be no need for the local custom of the *artificial* veil to override the *natural* veil (*her hair*) that God has given to women. Nevertheless, Paul did expect the woman to use her long hair as a *natural* covering so that she could maintain a symbol of her submission to her husband and ultimately to God’s divine order in the church and society in general. This is something that every woman can do by allowing her hair to remain ample or sufficient in length. A woman’s hair is the timeless and transcultural symbol that demonstrates her submission to her husband and to God’s general order of authority for church life and society. Her long hair is a statement of her inner submissive heart of humility and quietness that Peter talked about. A specific message or sign that she has placed herself under her husband’s leadership and is faithful to him as his wife. What a beautiful picture this is for every

woman today in the church. Mark this down. The artificial veil was a custom but the natural veil that God gave to each woman becomes the transcultural sign of her submission to her husband and to male authority in the local church. That's why Paul calls a woman's long hair her glory or beauty. It's because her life of submission is a thing of beauty to God. Furthermore, her hair marks her out as distinctly feminine in her appearance and separate from men. God wants a distinction in the sexes to prove that there is a distinction in marital roles. The feminist movement of today does not want this and is promoting short hair as a sign of rebellion against God's divinely established order of headship and leadership within the home, the church and the nation. Women today want to rebel against God's design and demonstrate their rebellious heart by their short hair length.

Ladies, as Christians, God expects you to follow His design and sign for womanhood, which is long hair. It is a mark of your radiant beauty or glory. The glory and beauty of a woman is found in her long hair for it is that which marks her off as a feminine lady instead of a feminist lady and signifies that she is submissive to her husband and to God's general order for submissiveness in church life and all of society.

It's interesting that the average physiology of a woman's make up by God promotes her to have hair instead of going completely bald like men often do. And this woman's creative design by God is reflected in most cultures in the custom of longer hair on women. And God has given her longer and lasting hair as a covering. In fact, her hair becomes an enduring sign of both her inward and outward beauty.

God could not have given a more beautiful and enduring sign than this. How sad it is when Christian ladies in the church begin to

ignore this God given beauty trait of a woman, which not only marks her off as a feminine lady, but also promotes God's message of divine order in the marriage and church life.

1 Corinthians 11:14-16 says: "*Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering. But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.*"

Short hair on women is a sign of rebellion to God's order even as long hair on men is a sign of rebellion to God's order. A man's long hair tells the story that he does not want Christ to be his spiritual Head or leader in life. And a woman's short hair tells the story that she does not want to have her husband ruling over her as here head or leader. *In a similar way, as wearing long hair shames a man, so wearing short hair shames a woman.* This is the unchanging transcultural truth that we need to learn as God's people today.

Ladies, don't cut away your glory and begin to follow the styles of men in your hair length. Of course, this does not mean you cannot cut your hair. But don't allow the world's standards to dictate how you look. Did you ever stop and think that the world's standards just might not square up with God's eternal truth and His desire for your life as woman? Remember that your brilliant glory and feminine beauty is found in your hair. Your hair becomes an outward sign of beauty that demonstrates your inward heart attitude toward God's design for submission. God is still looking for beautiful women!

Revelation 9:8 says: "*And they **had hair as the hair of women**, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.*"

Even apocalyptic visions of the end-time reveal how women were to have longer hair than men! They always were known to wear

their hair long as a sign of both outward feminine beauty which inevitably was to become a sign of their inward beauty of a submissive heart.

Luke 7:37-38 reveals a tender scene in the Lord's life: "And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment."

You will note that this woman had long enough hair so that she could wipe the feet of Jesus with this expensive ointment. And in one sense she was taking her hair, which was a sign of her humility and submission before God, and began wiping the very feet of God! This action was a sign of her repentance and faith in the Messiah to forgive her of her sins and save her soul. The longer hair on this woman became a beautiful expression of her humbleness and submissiveness before the Savior.

We have been saying all along that God is still looking for beautiful women. And the true glory or beauty of a woman is displayed when she follows her creative design to stand by her husband, promote him and his goals, serve him and meet his needs in life. Her glory is demonstrated when she is willing to live in submission to her husband and follow his leadership. A woman's glory, beauty and magnificence is also presented when she is willing to outwardly display the enduring sign of her submission toward her husband through her feminine beauty and the distinctive mark of womanhood – her long hair.

Are you a beautiful woman?

NOTE:

The principle of my ministry is “*freely we received, freely we give*”. My wife and I don’t charge people but trust God to supply our needs. If you are blessed with this free eBook or have been benefiting a lot from our teaching ministry, we encourage you to support our ministry with any amount as the Lord Jesus directed you. If you are outside Kenya, contact us. Thanks

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*They are also available for marriage seminars, youth seminars and revival meetings.
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