

A Helper, Comparable to Him

by Hendrik Joubert

It is said that if men and women were to take turns at childbirth no couple would have more than three children. The wife would have the first, the husband the second and then the wife will continue to have the third. Due to the pains of childbirth it is believed the husband would not keep the system going.

The woman has more unique God given qualities to celebrate; qualities in which a man would never be her equal, just as the man has qualities which the woman will never be able to match. God created the woman *comparable* to the man; to be a *suitable helper*. (Genesis 2:18) The man and the woman were designed and created to complement each other so that they would become a unit: *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* (Genesis 2:24)

Marriage is a matter of choice; every man and every woman does not have to get married simply because God designed us this way. Through the apostle Paul we learn that marriage could be considered both a burden and a distraction, especially under specific circumstances such as the persecution Christians suffered during New Testament times: *I suppose therefore that this is good because of the present distress--that it is good for a man to remain as he is:...* (1Corinthians 7:26)

The seventh chapter of this first letter to the Corinthians opens with the statement: *It is good for a man not to touch a woman.* Continue reading and you will learn that it is equally so for a woman; to keep herself from being touched by a man. (1Corinthians 7:34) When we consider the duties of both the man and the woman we quickly realize how there are concerns which may distract us from our main purpose in life, to fear God and obey His rules. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

Every man and woman who enters into a marriage relationship has to abide by the rules expressed by their Creator. Many may choose to ignore the rules set by God, and therefore choose to ignore God. This may be done quite blatantly by denying even the existence of God, or it may be done politely by subjecting His rules to personal interpretation. We all will face Him in judgment though – the very words spoken through His Son, which was confirmed by those who heard, will judge us in the last day. (John 12:48; Hebrews 2:1-4; 2Peter 3:15-16; 2Timothy 3:16-17 – Continue reading on to 2Timothy 4:5 to see the simple warning against looking for what we want to see.)

The rules for the *suitable helper* have come under attack in our society to the extent that the simple statements of the Bible would be considered archaic by most. Because of the attitude promoted in our day it even makes one uncomfortable to point out that the same passage which explains the pains of childbirth adds the following punishment: *Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.* (Genesis 3:16)

Through Peter God teaches us that women are to adorn themselves with *the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.* Peter then uses Sarah as example: *as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.* (1Peter 3:3-6)

As if this is not difficult enough God, through Paul, adds: *Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.*¹² *And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.*¹³ *For Adam was formed first, then Eve.* (1Timothy 2:11-13) Some object that this was Paul's rule; however notice that he *wrote with the wisdom given him* (2Peter 3:15-16) – *by inspiration of God.* (2Timothy 3:16-17)

We may therefore *interpret* what is difficult to accept to our own destruction... *which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.* (2Peter 3:15-16) Or we may look for those who will teach what we would like to hear on the matter... *but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth...* (2Timothy 4:3)

GRACE, not legalism! Notice what ***the grace of God that brings salvation appeared to all men*** do: ***...teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age...*** (Titus 2:11-12)

Obedience does not concern the things I like to do anyway. Obedience involves those things I find difficult to do, the things which require me to submit my will to that of God so that I would demonstrate my *faith* in Him. ***...though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. ⁹ And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him...*** (Hebrews 5:8-9)