



Job Description: A Christian Wife

Reports To: God through Her Local Church as Held Accountable by Her Small Group

Hours Per Week: 168 (Full-Time Position; Monday through Sunday)

Summary of Position

Be a growing ambassador and example of Christ in character, thought, emotion, and deed. Supporting her husband's God-honoring, functional plan to manage life, contributing to important conversations, and being willing to sacrifice when life requires.

Skills / Knowledge / Experience Required

- A personal relationship with Jesus Christ evidenced by daily reliance upon the Holy Spirit, prayer, and Bible intake.
- An accurate, sober self-assessment of strengths and weakness that can be shared without defensiveness (Rom 12:1-3).
- Willingness to live in submission by accepting God's moral standards and being accountable to specific Christian women.
- Contentment with God's provision (finances, skills, husband, children, etc...) to model how the family is to find stability.
- Ability to reinforce the tone of the family to be a positive place of mutual encouragement and sacrifice for one another.
- Assist each member of your household to discover, develop, and deploy their unique gifts in God's service.

Responsibilities

AREA #1: Actively Pursue the Personal Character Necessary to Sustain a Healthy Marriage. Every Christian is to be marked by the traits that Galatians 5:22-23 calls the "Fruit of the Spirit." Pursuing these character traits is the moral obligation and sign of true conversion for every Christian. These qualities are necessary for a healthy marriage and should never have to be "demanded" by your spouse. Your spouse is only the recipient of a blessing flowing from your imitation of God in these ways.

| Passive Distortion (Your Tendency) | | | | | Fruit of the Spirit (Standard of "Healthy") | | | | | | Aggressive Distortion (Your Tendency) |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|------------------------------------------|
| -5 | -4 | -3 | -2 | -1 | Love | -1 | -2 | -3 | -4 | -5 | |
| -5 | -4 | -3 | -2 | -1 | Joy | -1 | -2 | -3 | -4 | -5 | |
| -5 | -4 | -3 | -2 | -1 | Peace | -1 | -2 | -3 | -4 | -5 | |
| -5 | -4 | -3 | -2 | -1 | Patience | -1 | -2 | -3 | -4 | -5 | |
| -5 | -4 | -3 | -2 | -1 | Kindness | -1 | -2 | -3 | -4 | -5 | |
| -5 | -4 | -3 | -2 | -1 | Goodness | -1 | -2 | -3 | -4 | -5 | |
| -5 | -4 | -3 | -2 | -1 | Faithfulness | -1 | -2 | -3 | -4 | -5 | |
| -5 | -4 | -3 | -2 | -1 | Gentleness | -1 | -2 | -3 | -4 | -5 | |
| -5 | -4 | -3 | -2 | -1 | Self-Control | -1 | -2 | -3 | -4 | -5 | |

AREA #2: Actively Pursue the Marks of Christian Relationships for Your Marriage. God's call for how Christians relate to one another should be most clearly seen in marriage. Marriage should be the example of Christian friendship, not the exception. When you take the actions described below you are fulfilling your Christian duty not "going the extra mile."

| Command | Reference | My Strength | My Weakness | My Spouse's Desire |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Accept One Another | Romans 15:7 | | | |
| Admonish One Another | Colossians 3:16 | | | |
| Bear One Another's Burdens | Galatians 6:2 | | | |
| Build Up One Another | Romans 14:19 | | | |
| Confess to One Another | James 5:16 | | | |
| Encourage One Another | Hebrews 3:13 | | | |
| Be Honest with One Another | Colossians 3:9 | | | |
| Honor One Another | Romans 12:10 | | | |
| Serve One Another | Galatians 5:13 | | | |
| Spur On One Another | Hebrews 10:24 | | | |



AREA #3: Fulfill Shared Responsibilities of Marriage Not Pertaining to Gender Roles. There is much more to a Christian marriage than gender roles – headship and submission. Paul introduces his famous passage on genders roles (Eph. 5:22-33) with a preface calling for every believer to examine their life systems (Eph. 5:15-21). While it is the headship-responsibility of the husband to ensure a couple answers these questions, either spouse (or both) may bear the responsibility of primary oversight of these areas.

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise...” (v. 15)

- **Finances:** Do you have a monthly family budget that keeps up with all income and expenses? Does your monthly income exceed your planned monthly spending? Do you have a system for saving for significant future expenses?
- **Household Tasks:** Do you have a list of daily, weekly, yearly, and periodic tasks necessary to operate your household? Do you have shared expectations about each other’s available time, skills, and interest? Have you agreed upon who will assume responsibility for which tasks? Are you flexible and sacrificial when changes need to be made to this division of labor?

“Making the best use of the time, because the days are evil...” (v. 16)

- **Time:** Do your expectations for yourself and your spouse fit within a 168 hour week? Do each of you arrange your schedule prioritizing time for God and each other? Do you regularly evaluate your use of time to ensure you are living your priorities as life changes?

“Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is...” (v. 17-18)

- **Daily Decisions:** Do you have shared moral values to guide your decision making? Do you study Scripture together when you disagree on a moral decision or whether a decision is a moral issue? Are you free of negative controlling influences (i.e., alcohol, debt, bad peers, etc...) that lead to foolish decisions?

“Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ” (v. 21)

- **Attitude and Lordship:** Do I blame or resent my spouse for having to meet the requirements of a Christian husband or wife? Do I view the ways I bless my spouse as acts of worship to God? Do I view my joy in blessing my spouse as a primary way that I disciple and guard the heart of my spouse?

AREA #4: Fulfill Your Unique Gender-Calling to Represent Christ in Your Family. A wife, through her unique personality and gifting is to obey God by being a well-suited helper for her husband as the head of the family. If areas one through three are seriously engaged by both spouses, then submission should rarely necessitate “relenting.” However, when his authority is exercised, it is should be clear that she supports his leadership without bitterness and that there is grace when her husband is wrong.

A wife should build upon her husband’s efforts to create a home environment where it is safe, normal, and encouraged to pursue God. Everything about household operation should be designed or engaged for this purpose (Deut. 6:4-9). A wife is to learn each member of her family and find ways to encourage and enhance her husband’s efforts to equip each one for effective service to God (Psalm 127:4). The items found on this job description are how God intends for a wife to measure success in life.

| Husband Roles | Reference | My Strength | My Weakness | My Spouse's Desire |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Well-Suited Helper | Genesis 2:18 | | | |
| Submissive to Her Husband | 1 Peter 3:1-7 | | | |
| Woman of Competence | Proverbs 31 | | | |
| Enthusiastic Lover | Solomon 5:10-6:3, 7:9-13, 8:10,14 | | | |
| Overseer of Her Home | Titus 2:3-5 | | | |