

April 2006

Angry Wives

“Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.”
1 Corinthians 11:9

Intro

God has designed marriage to be a blessing to both the man and his wife, and the home to be a place of tranquility, a place where one can go to relax, a place for healing, but in so many homes today in our modern world marriage has become a setting of ongoing hostility between the husband and wife and the home a battle ground.

Why is that? How can something designed to be so wonderful end up in becoming that is so destructive to not only the husband and wife, but the children in the home also? There are many factors involved in this negative phenomenon, but the one that stands out at the top is pride and the rejection of authority.

Pride rejects authority; it rejects the Word of God; it rejects the authority structure that God has established for the home where the man is the head of the house; it triggers the problem of the sin nature in the flesh, and the outcome is bitterness, anger, malice, arguments, self pity, verbals sins and on to overt violence. The home has now become a battle ground instead of a place of healing, comfort and tranquility.

The solution is for all of us to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God! That is, to be in submission to the rule of God over our lives through the filling of the Holy Spirit and the intake and application of the Word of God to our lives. For the man, this means that he is to step up and take the leadership role that God has ordained for him. And he does this by submitting himself to the authority structure of being under Jesus Christ and the authority structure that he has established for him. He is to be under the authority of a Pastor-Teacher taking in Bible Doctrine for his life and leading his family in the manner God ordains. For the woman, it means that she not only is to be under the authority of the Word of God being taught by a Pastor-Teacher, but she is to be submitting herself to the authority of her husband!

When the wife fails to do this, or refuses to do this, then the result will be hostility in the home. Her negativity will end up destroying the souls of her husband and her children. She will be like the foolish woman that destroys her house as brought out in Proverbs. We will cover several Old Testament passages showing just one of the negative consequences on men that her prideful anger causes. But first we want to consider Proverbs 14:1 *“Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.”*

The word for *wise* is *chaqmah*, which is referring to the born again woman who has metabolized the teachings of the Word of God by faith, under the doctrinal ministry of a Pastor-Teacher, and is **applying** it to her life. Without the intake and application of Bible Doctrine, under the filling of the Holy Spirit, there is no wisdom for the woman.

Next it tells us that *she buildeth her home, banah and bayith*. Now this is her home and the people in her home that is being talked about here, not someone else's. And it's interesting that the word used here for her building her home, *banah*, is the same word that was used for the individual separate creation of the female of the species in the garden! She is reflecting and manifesting in life her own creation!

The word used for the creating of the woman's body, *banah*, is a totally different word; it meant to build something. And in the majority of the cases it dealt with the building of fortresses, towers, buildings, cities, houses, walls, temples, altars, repairs, foundations, etc..

Banah had several significances. **First of all**, it dealt with all the complexities of building: the designing of the plans, site preparation, the laying of the foundation, the construction of the building, its artistic embellishments, such as fancy carvings, filigree, sculpting, overlaying with gold, ivory, precious stones- all to make beautiful what has been built.

The second thing about *banah* is the aspect of craftsmanship. It is one thing to build a building, but with *banah* it tells us that the skill and craftsmanship of the architects, workers and artisans played a major role in making it a beautiful building.

The third thing about *banah* is that something is made or constructed out of matter; things that exist in the material world, while the heavens and the earth were created out of nothing.

The fourth thing about *banah* is that the things that were used in the construction process were not just raw materials and had to be shaped, sculpted and worked before they could be used in the construction process. The carpenter had to cut and shape the wood. The mason had to cut, dress and fit the stones. The artisan had to cut, shape, and fit the finish work.

While with the woman's body, **great care went into its beauty!** An ordinary building in itself is quite an achievement and often a wonderful thing. But to have artisan's work it over with all sorts of beautiful embellishments transforms it into a beautiful building, one that is functional and beautiful, one that people can use, enjoy and admire. Even more so, if the architects were brought in from the beginning to design its shape to be beautiful from the beginning. Both are buildings, good buildings, both serve their function well, but the one is absolutely beautiful; one that people can use and admire because its shape, texture and artistic embellishments have been incorporated into its design to make it a thing of beauty. So it is with the woman's body.

We see women in America today reflecting this aspect of their creation by their decorating their homes with furnishings, etc., usually to show off to their friends, but have really missed the point because a home is not made up by its material furnishings, but **by the spiritual and emotional atmosphere that they are to create!**

But the *foolish woman, ivveleth*, the prideful and arrogant woman, the wife who rejects the teaching of Bible doctrine either in its intake or application to life, the wife who rejects the authority of her husband and authority in general tears it down. At the very least she loses out on so many of the blessings that God has for her, and at the worse she can destroy it by her own angry or psychotic behavior!

To *tear down* is *haras* and was used of an army coming into a land and destroying the city; sometimes they would tear down buildings and temples stone by stone, or raze the city with fire. All the years of hard work, sacrifice and labor were destroyed by an angry, vengeful army.

The home was designed by God for the woman, for her blessing, her protection, for her security, a place to raise her children, a place to create a peaceful environment for her husband, a place to manifest her creative doctrinal life. But instead of building her home, *banah*, she is tearing it down! And how is she doing that? She does it by her constant fighting, bickering and quarreling. She does it by her fighting her husband's authority over her, by her constantly lusting after things and not getting them, and being angry and arguing over everything under the sun! **She is foolish because she is destroying the blessing package that God has given her because of her pride and anger!**

A. The Fall of Adam and Eve.

“Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.” Genesis 3:16

This is where it all began. When God originally created the man and the woman, and put them in the garden, there was no authority structure in their marriage union. And their rule over the earth was a joint rule.

But when they sinned against God, God placed separate curses on them both. But the curses actually were also a blessing to them and would be for their benefit. For the man he was to work by the sweat of his brow until he died. For the woman she would have pain in bearing children, her uncontrollable desire, her longing would be for her husband, her right man, and that **he would rule over her.**

The word for *rule* is *mashal*. *Mashal* spoke of the dominion or rule that the Pharaoh, or a king, would have over their subjects. **It means that someone has the right to tell you what to do.** It's exactly the same word used for the rule of the husband over his wife. And the same principle extends to the Christian marriage. Now if a woman doesn't want **that** man telling her what to do, then don't marry him! And if she doesn't want any man

telling her what to do, then stay single! But she will still be under the authority of the Lord, and the Pastor of a church if she's a believer. **None of us can get away from the principle that we all are under authority.**

To deny that the woman is to be under the authority of her husband is not only arrogance, and a rejection of Bible Doctrine, but **it is a denial of original sin!** This phenomenon swept through Israel in Isaiah's day, "*As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them.*" Isaiah 3:12a And it has swept through America for the last twenty years due to the satanic influence of the "women's lib movement".

B. O My Stomach!

"Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife." Proverbs 17:1

The home has always been the domain of the woman and its success or failure goes directly back to her feet. There are some good women today who put a lot of thought and love into taking care of their families, then there are those who care only about the show. They put on sumptuous meals, but more to impress their friends.

There are those women who are good cooks and are able to lay down a fantastic meal, but at what cost! If they are angry, what does it do to the atmosphere of the meal? For some women, more time needs to be put into their own personal spiritual preparation, than the preparation of the food.

The word for *better* is *tob*, which means to be good, or to be better in this passage. A dry morsel, *chareb path*, can refer both to bread or to meat. Either one works in the passage so we get the message, for the contrast is used to bring out which is the better of two circumstances. It can refer to the crust of dry bread, bread where there is no wine or olive oil to dip it into, or a piece of dried meat. Sacrifices, *zebach*, would refer to a freshly slain cow or lamb.

Strife, *rib*, meant to argue, from the minor quarrel all the way to a full blown raging argument. It stems from the believer's personal pride, the rejecting of the authority concept, to old sin nature control of the soul, selfishness, lusts, wanting to have your own way, wanting to gratify your lusts, the influence of negative people, the influence of the world system, materialism, and many other things to the place where it breaks out in an argument between the husband and the wife.

Although it takes two to have an argument, and that there is generally one person who starts it, this passage is looking at strife in the home from the perspective of the husband. It is better, preferable for the man to have a dry morsel, than to have a banquet in a situation where his wife is arguing all the time. In fact, we have the idea of a calf or lamb that has been slain for a delicious meal. One can almost smell the steaks on the grill. But the passage says that **it is better to have a piece of jerky, (dried meat), with peace and quiet, than it is to have a steak dinner with strife and contention.**

Quietness is *shalvah*. This refers to the atmosphere of the home. **Our homes are to be quiet and peaceful, as well as our meals.** Conflict, lusts, fighting, arguing, quarreling, anger, hostility, tension and all those negative things are **not** to be found in the home. *“For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”* 1 Timothy 2:2

It isn't the quality or quantity of the meal that is important, but the **quality of the atmosphere!** And this applies to both the husband and the wife. But it is the wife who makes her home what it is. She can always be screaming and nagging and complaining about what she doesn't have, and what all the others have, or she can be thankful for what she does have and create a peaceful meal and a peaceful home. On the man's part, it is better for him to be off by himself eating a dry piece of jerky, than it would be to be in a house with a raging , complaining wife while trying to choke down a good steak!

C. Like A Dripping Faucet.

“A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.” Proverbs 19:13

The word for *contentions* is *midyan* and it refers to a strife or controversy, a matter which is to be judged. This presupposes that the two parties are at odds over some matter. If they were agreed, then there would be no problem. But because they disagree over a matter, the two are at odds with one another and the hostilities and arguments start to flow.

Here the problem is the wife; she is a contentious woman. You say black, she says white; you say white, she says black. She has her own position upon which she is taking her stand and it is in opposition to the position of her husband.

And to deal with a matter before it comes forth in one's mind of, “well the man should just do what she says!” It's nice to have harmony in the home of opinion on a subject where both agree on the biblical position, **but in case there isn't, it's the woman's role to defer to her husband and stop being an annoyance to him!**

But what we have here is a wife who won't! She was the OT counterpart of the women's lib movement today and the cows living in Israel in Jeremiah's day. Nagging, wanting, complaining, unthankful, always lusting for more, never satisfied, continually fighting her husband's authority in the home.

So what does all this mean to the man? Well to the man she is like a dripping faucet in our day, (they didn't have them then), but what it's really saying is that she's like a leaky roof that keeps on dripping water. You know you need to fix it, but you also know that if you plug up one leak, it'll probably start leaking in another place. In other words, it's a hopeless situation in trying to deal with this type of wife. The only thing that keeps her in the home is the greatness of the man. But in her own self absorbed mind it's because she thinks that she's something special.

D. Big Houses, Big Egos.

“It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.” Proverbs 21:9

A young man starts out by buying himself a four by four pickup to impress his friends and hopefully to get a girl. He gets the girl, gets married, has kids, buys a house, gets hopelessly into debt, buys a bigger house, lives in constant strife with his wife and then ends up living in a an 'eight by eight' room somewhere.

It may be in the garage, in the shop out back, it may be in the den or bedroom of the home, and it may be leaving and ending up in a studio, a van, a camper shell, or if you have big bucks, a little trailer parked somewhere.

Or it may be, contextually, ending up living on the roof of the house. Like the old song, “In my room”. In those days it would get so hot in the house that many would build a little cubicle up on a corner of the flat roof with generally a small cot to sleep in, a chair to sit on, and a table with an oil lamp to read by. It certainly wasn't the Ritz but it was a far cry better than being downstairs with an angry wife.

Many American wives got off track in their lives today. They think that having a nice home, furnished and decorated to the nines is the epitome of what it means to be a successful wife. But God says for the man it is far better, preferable to him, to be upstairs away from her and her anger than to be down in her finely appointed home! **The children want a mother who will interact with them and the man wants peace and quiet!**

Instead of building an atmosphere of love and peace in the home, so many women today put all their emphasis on having large homes in opulent gated communities, furnished by interior decorators, and throwing parties to impress their friends. This is all about their egos and is a manifestation of their pride, which is their problem in the first place and the reason for their anger, hostility and fighting with their husbands!

They may think that they're quite successful as a wives and mothers, but they are total failures in the eyes of God and evidenced by their husbands not wanting to be around them. Not to mention the children who go their own way. Ladies, don't waste your time building a material house to impress people who are no consequence to you, invest it into the Word, the filling of the Holy Spirit and in creating a peaceful haven for your family!

Anger is destructive regardless of whether it is coming from the man or the woman. But the subject of Proverbs is the woman and her home, which is not just the material house - **the house means nothing** – but her husband and her children. And when she gets angry she is destroying the gift that God gave to her for her blessing and driving away the only ones on earth who truly love her! **This is evidenced by God himself saying that it is better for the man to live on the corner of the roof of his house, than it is to be downstairs with and angry contentious wife!**

E. Any Desert Will Do.

“It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.”
Proverbs 21:19

Again the Word is contrasting two situations. In comparing the two of living in a home with an angry woman or being out in the desert, it is better to be out in the desert. What is noticeable, other than it being so explicit, is the lack of the definite article. It isn't speaking about one specific desert, but any desert! It is better for the man, it is preferable for the man to live out in a desert. **And any desert will do!**

And ladies if you're an angry, contentious, bitter, proud, arguing wife, then this is talking about you! The Mojave, the Sahara, the Negev, the Gobi; any deserted place on earth is better than living with you! And this isn't me saying this, God is saying this! The solution is applying the Bible Doctrine, under the filling of the Holy Spirit, to your home life.

Wilderness here is *eretz midbar*, a deserted land, and is similar to the Greek *eremos*, and both refer to both an actual desert, sand and all, or to a forested area. **What makes a desert a desert is not the absence of trees, but the absence of people!** We can also call it a remote area.

There are those lands suitable for the grazing of animals that are still somewhat semiarid. Then there are those lands farther out past them that are not. It is these lands that come under the category of the desert or wilderness. Some of the things that characterize them are: the lack of water, scarcity of vegetation, the absence of civilization and its comforts; its inhabitants are nomadic or semi nomadic, many of whom were brigands, thieves and cutthroats preying upon the hapless wanderer; heat, deprivation, hunger and death were always a present threat; it was the refuge of rebels and outlaws; the asylum of outcasts and fugitives; it was the place of scorpions, spiders and venomous snakes; and it was full of *phantom like* creatures, such as the *night hag*, *satyrs* and *demons*.

It was a land forsaken by God and one to be avoided at all costs. Yet God is saying that it is better for the man to be out there, with all that going on, than live in a house with an angry, contentious woman! Why? Men can adjust to the harshness of the elements, and sometimes be able to deal with them successfully, but he is not able to handle an angry, contentious wife who is always on his case. She's too close to him.

The word for *dwell* is *yashab* and can be rendered to reside, to live somewhere either on a temporary or permanent basis. It's not looking so much at the permanency of the arrangement, but simply to say that it's better 'out there', than in here with her. **At least out there there's peace and quiet and that's a far sight better than anger and strife!**

The word for *angry* is *ka'as* and it refers to being discontent, bitter, angry, a bad tempered woman, bitterness expressed in words all the way to unbridled rage. And the problem goes back once again to individual pride and the bitterness that it produces. Pride produces bitterness, bitterness produces anger, anger produces hateful words.

All of us have a problem with pride, some more than others. And out of that pride is a rejection: of the Word, the authority structure of God and the spiritual dynamic that God has provided for all his people. If the wife in the home does not apply 1 John 1:9 where she confess her sins, if she does not live by faith in the filling of the Holy Spirit, if she is not content with the life she has and the things and people in life she presently has, then bitterness and anger will rule over her soul and **she will end up being an angry wife!**
And the people that love her will not want to be around her!

F. Rainy Days And Running Mouths.

“A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.”
Proverbs 27:15

This passage expands on Proverbs 19:13, *“A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.”* It becomes an annoyance, then an irritation, then can develop into the husband becoming bitter at his wife, and finally it can get to the place where all he wants to do is get away from her.

Some men go hunting and fishing a lot, while others stay around the house but spend all their time out in the shop or the garage, while others develop “hearing” problems! What's going on? They want to get away from the anger, the bitterness, the incessant discontent, the complaining, the always hearing about all the things she wants to have and the anger over the things she doesn't have!

In our day one of the things that gets under the skin of men is having to listen to a dripping faucet. No matter how hard you tighten it down it still keeps dripping. But far worse than that is a roof that leaks on a rainy day! The faucet is irritating, but the leaky roof is a real problem.

We get irritated because we know that they have to be fixed and that we're the ones who will have to fix them, or pay someone to fix them, which will cost money. But with an angry wife there is no way that we can fix that! Oh we try to, we just throw money at the problem, “Maybe that'll shut her up, we think”. But it only does for awhile, then there goes the dripping all over again.

Men are fixers. A problem comes up and we fix it. We probably don't want to, but eventually we do. We can fix things, but we can't fix an angry wife! Only the Lord can do that and it depends on whether the wife will humble herself under his Word and apply it to her life.

Are alike is *shavah* and it meant to be level, to be equal to, to be like something else, to resemble. The angry contentious wife resembles a roof that is leaking on a rainy day, but it rains all the time. Instead of providing coverage and comfort for the home, the sweetness of God's spiritual life flowing through her, she is allowing the outside elements of the world system, carnality, worldliness and covetousness to come into the house creating strife and tension for everyone in the home!

G. Becoming A Princess.

“Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.” ως σαρρα υπηκουσεν τω αβρααμ κυριον αυτον καλουσα ης εγεννηθητε τεκνα αγαθοποιουσαι και μη φοβουμεναι μηδεμιαν πτοησιν 1 Peter 3:6

Ladies you're not a princess until God calls you a princess. And God won't call you a princess until you fulfill God's protocol plan for spiritual maturity. There are four levels of dignity for both men and women. For the woman it begins with being a female, then as she matures in life and displays the character of being an adult she can be termed a woman. If she grows in grace, as a believer, and matures as a doctrinal woman she finally becomes a lady. And if she has learned the lesson of the authority, and where her place is in that in reference to her husband, then finally she is a princess.

For the man he starts out as a male, and if he grows up and displays the characteristics of what being a man is all about, which are so woefully lacking in America today, (most men are really boys with toys), then we can call him a man. And as a believer if he grows in grace and matures in many areas he can finally be called a gentleman. And if he finally learns his place in the plan of God and operates in it, then he becomes a prince.

In America we use the terms boys and girls, men and women, the law refers to them as males and females, and out of politeness, we say ladies and gentlemen. But few adult males are men, they're really boys who never grew up, and just as rare, very few men and women are truly ladies and gentlemen.

So, if you're in a huff, get over it. It is not important what you call yourself, or what others call you, but how God refers to you! All Christians are righteous in the eyes of God, and all are truly loved by him, but all do not have any character, integrity, dignity or bearing. That only comes through growth in Bible Doctrine!

It says that Sarah obeyed Abraham; she didn't just respond to him, she obeyed him! The word in the Greek is *hupotasso* and was a military word used for the obedience of a man in the military as he submitted himself to his superior officer. It was the word used for authority, *exousia*, where the one over you has been given the legal right to tell you what to do.

Now we might add here that being in **authority does not connote superiority**, neither does it mean that being under authority connotes inferiority! It simply means that the one over you, the one in charge, has the right to tell you what to do and your proper response is to submit to his authority by doing what he tells you to do.

In the marriage union the man is the head, *kephale*, of the house. That means he has the authority over the wife, children and all who dwell under his roof. And he is responsible before God for the home. *“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”* Ephesians 5:23

And as the Church is to be subject to Jesus Christ, *hupotasso*, by that same standard the wives are to submit themselves to their husbands, and only to their husbands, not some other man, even if he's a boss on the job. The word for *submit* here, *hupotasso*, is in the present middle indicative which tells us that **it isn't a command**, but that the wives are to **exercise their own volition to do so**. But in the middle voice it tells us **that they will be benefited if they do submit to their husband's authority!**

When *hupotasso* is used for Sarah in obeying Abraham it's found in the aoist active indicative, which tells us first of all that she did so out of her own free will. This is a culminative aorist which views the entire action of Sarah's submission to her husband's authority with emphasis on the results of that action.

Sarah got to that place in her life where she called her husband, Lord. The word for lord here is *kurios* and is the same word for the Lord Jesus Christ. *Kurios* had in it the ideas of power, authority, legality and control over another person. And one of the main things that stood out with it **is that the one who was your Lord always acted in such a way, that is, he always exercised his authority over you for your benefit!**

When God was about to fulfill the promise that he had made to *Abram* he changed both their names. *Abram* meant, “the father of wind”, which some might call “windbag” today, which he changed to *Abraham*, “the father of many nations”. And to *Sarai*, which has been roughly translated as, “nagger”, he changed it to *Sarah*, which meant, “princess”. And Sarah also became the mother of many nations because she was included in the covenant that God made with Abram.

And we notice their ages when he did this. Abraham was ninety-nine years old, and I believe Sarah was ten years younger than him when God appeared to them to fulfill his promise to them and to change their names. We notice how long it took for the two of them **to not only be completed in their faith, but to be completed in their humility!** And Sarah's humility before the Lord was expressed in her complete submission to her husband's authority, even to the place of calling him Lord!

Some Christian women today will say, “I'm in submission to the Lord”. But at the same time they reject their husband's authority over them! They are deceiving themselves by their pride. If they do not submit themselves to their husband's authority over them, then they are not in submission to the Lord regardless of what they maintain!

All of us are to be in submission to God and we do so by submitting ourselves to the authority structures that he has ordained. In the local church, it's to be under the authority of the Pastor-Teacher. And in the home, it's the authority of the husband. And all of us are to be under the teaching of God's Word and living by it in our lives.

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