

Be a Helpmeet

(Remembering how we came to be and our purpose)

Genesis 2:18-25 HCSB Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is like him." **19** So the LORD God formed out of the ground each wild animal and each bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. **20** The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found who was like him. **21** So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. **22** Then the LORD God made the rib He had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. **23** And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called woman, for she was taken from man. **24** This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. **25** Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.



- **Ephesians 5:22-24 HCSB** Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord, **23** for the husband is head of the wife as also Christ is head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. **24** Now as the church submits to Christ, so wives should *submit* to their husbands in everything.
- **Ephesians 1:22-23 HCSB** And **He put everything under His feet and appointed Him as head over everything** for the church, **23** which is His body, the fullness of the One who fills all things in every way.
- **Colossians 1:18 HCSB** He is also the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything.

Paul taught the Ephesian church that the church is to relate to Christ as a bride to her husband. She is to follow his leadership.

Of course with humans this is difficult. Husbands are not always what they should be and this makes it difficult for an intelligent, strong and godly woman to place herself under his guidance.



Men are quick to pound their fist on the pulpit crying out "Women – submit!" But they're not as quick to advocate "Men – lay down your lives!"

Of course, Christians have the advantage of having the perfect Husband, Lord Jesus the Christ.



In Genesis 2 we read that Eve was created to be Adam's "helper". She was not created to be his slave, nor his boss. Adam was not complete without her. It is an interesting if seldom acknowledged point that Christ's sufferings are incomplete and we are to fulfill them until His coming. Take a look at

- **Colossians 1:24 HCSB** Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I am completing in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for His body,

that is, the church.

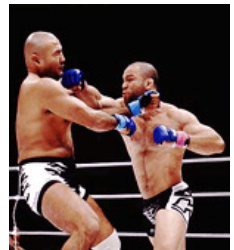
What is Paul saying? Is he saying that Christ's salvific work on the cross was insufficient and somehow we must finish the job for Him? Not at all. What he is saying is that Christ took on the sufferings of the world, helped shoulder some of its burdens and as His bride we must do the same thing.

Jesus said that not only would we take on this aspect of His job, but that we would actually surpass Him!

- **John 14:12-15 HCSB** "I assure you: The one who believes in Me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. 15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

Not only will we take to heart what He does, we will do even more! It will always be to bring Him glory however because it will be done through His power according to verses 13-14. In fact this is a command! We must surpass his works if we truly love Him.

18 years ago I married a woman who had never seen a boxing match, much less a full contact martial arts contest. But because she loved me, she began to learn about martial arts and fighting in general. It got to the point where she was as good at predicting who, between two fighters, would win as I was. She attended the fights – the ones in which I participated as a fighter the ones in which I was a referee and the ones in which I was a coach. Why? Because she loved me. She became interested in the things that interested me.



Now I'm the pastor of a small rural church. OK – maybe not quite this small – but certainly not a mega church. And again she has taken my interests and calling to heart. She organizes the worship service, she prepares the bulletins, leads the choir, picks most of the music for the soloists, teaches children's church, helps with VBS, plays piano sometimes and keeps me organized and dressed properly.

Jesus is passionate about alleviating suffering.



Jesus is passionate about the poor.



Jesus is passionate about saving the lost from a Godless eternity in hell. What are you passionate about?

