

God's Calling to Women

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Dominion/Authority

In the beginning, God gave dominion to whom?

*Gen 1:26 ¶ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let **them** have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

*27 So God created man in his own image, **in the image of God** created he him; **male and female created he them.***

*28 And God blessed **them**, and God said unto **them**, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

Dominion was given to the man **and** the woman.

They are the king **and** the queen.

Husband rule over wife is a consequence of the fall:

*Gen 3:16 ¶ 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.***

I operated for many many years under the assumption that God had given my husband a position of authority over me. But what does Scripture say? I searched the bible for the concepts of "husband" and "authority" used in the same passage. Here is the result of that search: [Keyword Search](#) There is nothing in the New Testament which grants a husband **authority over** his wife, with the exception of 1 Cor 7:4 where the wife is given identical **authority over** her husband's body!

"The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does." 1 Cor 7:4

But I still thought power over was inherent in "*the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church*" Eph 5:23

When I started moving into a more deeply intimate relationship with the Lord, and I could feel the Lord's love for me, HIS tenderness, HIS nourishing, HIS cherishing, HIS understanding, HIS provision.... then I realized **how** husband is supposed to be "head of the wife". Let's look at the entire verse of Eph 5:23 "*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.***" It doesn't say "husband is head as Jesus is LORD". It says "husband is head as Jesus is SAVIOR"! It is a description of sacrificial love. It is a description of a deeply intimate connection, the head is ONE with the body. If a part of the body hurts, the head will register the pain and will minister with tenderness and compassion as Jesus role models in the gospels. "*Head of the wife*" is not intended to be a ruler/lord/master/boss role.

It took me quite awhile-years- to untangle my mind from the idea that "husband is master". When I believed that way, and confused the concept of "submission" and "obedience", I would "obey" my

husband's every whim, but I was very unhappy about it! I was resentful and bitter. Which it turns out, is not submission at all! Submission preserves my right to say "no" (or "yes"). Submission is an **attitude** of humble cooperation.

Abigail in [1 Sam 25](#) is a submissive wife who disobeys.

Esther is a submissive wife who disobeys.

Sapphira ([Acts 5](#)) is a wife who should have submissively told her husband "no" but instead goes along with him agreeing to "lie to the Holy Spirit".

For a very long time, I was like Sapphira. I "agreed" with my husband to lie to the Holy Spirit. I tolerated sinful behavior from him in a misplaced attempt to be "submissive". I wondered why I felt so weary and heavy laden in my life and my marriage. 😞 It was because I was laboring under a yoke which was not from the Lord.

*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.*

*Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me;
for I am meek and lowly in heart:
and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

*For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matt 11:28-30*

Biblical Word Study: Why Use a Lexicon?

The original languages of the Bible are Greek (New Testament) and Hebrew (Old Testament). Some of the meaning of the original language can be obscured, lost, or even changed in the translation. By using a lexicon- a dictionary of the Greek and Hebrew languages of Scriptures- I can look at the original word used and its range of meanings and consider whether the translation I have been reading really captures God's Word in that instance. Searching the scriptures and digging beneath the surface through Biblical Word Study has been very enlightening and faith building for me.

Ezer-Help Meet Bible study

(hot linked to online Bible Study helps)

In Gen 1:26-28 God gave both male and female dominion over creation: they are the King and the Queen. God has not changed His mind.

The Bible tells us that the image of God- which was warped by the Fall- can be **renewed!** "*put on the new self, which is being **renewed** in knowledge in the **image** of its Creator"* [Col 3:16](#). Wouldn't Christian marriage as God intends, resemble a "garden of Eden" relationship? Though we cannot go back to the pre-Fall era, we are to pray and to move forward toward "*thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven*" [Luke 11:2](#). In a restored, redeemed marriage reflecting God's kingdom wouldn't a wife be respected as a "co-heir", valued and appreciated as "bone of my bone" and "help MEET"... as Adam must have felt toward Eve prior to the Fall ([see link](#))?

Here are the assignments given by God to the man and the woman in the Garden of Eden:

[Gen 2:15](#)

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Clicking on the word “keep” will take one to the Strong’s definition of the Hebrew Word “shamar” (which is not just gardening). It is to protect, guard, watchman, preserve, etc which implies there is an enemy, a danger and Adam is responsible to guard and protect.

Eve’s intended (by GOD) role is stated here:

[Gen 2:18](#)

*And the LORD God said, [It is] not good that the man should be alone;
I will make him an help meet for him.*

By clicking on the word “help meet” one can see that it carries the meaning of aid, succour, one who helps. But please notice the other occurrences of the Word by scrolling down the page at that link. The same word translated “help meet” of women is used of God.

So the husband has the authority to protect, nurture, nourish, cherish, love, understand, value, esteem, and respect his wife (see also Eph 5 and 1Peter 3 instructions for husbands). And the wife has the authority to help, nourish, love, humbly cooperate with (aka submit to), and reverence her husband (see also Eph 5 and 1Peter 3 instructions for wives)

Titus 2 Woman

Biblical Word Study

of *oikouros* (keeper at home) and *oikedespoteo*

In Titus 2, Paul instructs the aged women to teach the young women to be “keepers at home”. What does this mean? The Greek word translated “keepers at home” (KJV) or “homemakers” (NKJV) is *oikouros*. This is a compound word from *oikos*- house, household, family; and *ouros*- a guard, be “ware”, guardian, a watcher, a warden. Let this sink in for a moment: the word “*oikouros*” translated “keepers at home” carries the meaning of “*watching the house, of a watchdog*” {[source](#)}



The commission to “keep” was first given by God to Adam in Genesis 2:15: “*And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.*” In this case, we are looking at the Old Testament and a Hebrew Word. The Hebrew word in Gen 2:15 (adam’s assignment)= *shamar* which is translated keep , observe, heed, preserve, beware, watchman, wait, watch, regard, save. The

next occurrence of the word *shamar* is in Genesis 3:24 where “*Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to **keep** the way of the tree of life*”

Can you see similarity in meaning of the Hebrew word “*shamar*” translated “keep” and the Greek word “*ouros*” translated “keeper”? The “keep” commission of Gen 2:15 and that of Titus 2:5 are about protecting, watching, guarding.

From what danger do you suppose Adam was supposed to “keep” the garden? (Remember, he was given this assignment before the fall: before thorns, weeds, thistles, decay.) Is this “keep” directed to Adam a mere calling to domestic servitude as a gardener? The Titus 2 admonition to be “keepers at home” is no more a reference to domestic servitude than was God’s “KEEP” commission to Adam.

Fulfilling God’s commission to “keep” is a way in which male and female reflect the image of God who is referred to in scripture by a Greek word which means the “keeper above all”.

1 Peter 1:5 in several versions:

“*Who are **kept** by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*” KJV

“*who, in the power of God are being **guarded**, through faith, unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time*” YLT

“*who through faith are **shielded** by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*” NIV

“*who are **protected** by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*” NAS

The Greek word for each of the underlined translations above is [phroureo](#):
oureo=KEEPER ; *phr*= before; above

Head of the Household

The reader may question a wife’s authority to “KEEP the home” in the sense expressed above. My understanding of a wife’s authority was revolutionized by understanding the meaning of one Greek word in Scripture. Katherine Bushnell lifts the veil on the well kept secret. Quoted from [paragraph 368-369 of Lesson 48](#) :

Men often talk of the father and husband as the “final authority” in the home. What says St. Paul on the point? The Greek word for “despot” (*despotes*) furnishes us with our English word. Its meaning is precisely the same in Greek as it is in English. It means an absolute and arbitrary ruler, from whom there can be no appeal. It was the title slaves were required to use in addressing the master who owned them as property. Please read all the passages in which this Greek word *despotes* occurs. It is rendered “Master” in the following places: 1 Timothy 6:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:21; Titus 2:9; 1 Peter 2:18; “Lord” in Luke 2:29; Acts 4:24; 2 Peter 2:1; Jude 4; and Revelation 6:10.

Oikos is a very ordinary word in Greek, meaning “house.” These two words, *oikos* and *despotes*, unite to form the word *oikodespotes*, which, as you can see, means “master of the house,” and it is so rendered, Matthew 10:25; Luke 13:25 and 14:21. Now the Apostle Paul makes use of a verb corresponding to this noun *oikodespotes*, namely, “to master the house,” *oikodespotein*. He says, 1 Timothy

5:14, “I will that the younger women marry, bear children, oikodespotein, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.” After the analysis of this word, we can all see how it should have been translated. The A. V., however, translates, “*guide the house*” the R. V., with a little more justice translates, “*rule the household.*” Now whom, *if anyone*, does St. Paul make the “final authority in the home?” The woman. But we believe that Paul would teach that God alone is final authority in a Christian home.

A visit to the online Greek lexicon resource of Tufts University will confirm the definitions exposed by Bushnell some 100 years ago: [oikodespot-eō](#) and [oikodespoteō](#) from [1 Tim 5:14](#) *to be master of a house or head of a family, to rule the household*

Have you ever heard before that WOMEN are to be “master of the home”/ “queen of the castle”?

Author's Note: To illustrate "Keeper", I used a photo of Princess Eowyn of *The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King*. Enjoy the following memorable clip from the movie as an allegory of the power unleashed when God's Women are willing to overcome the obstacles and bravely engage in spiritual warfare. Women's participation is essential to the fulfillment of [Romans 16:20](#) and ushering in the Return of the KING.

[Click Here to view 42 second movie Clip on Youtube](#)