

*Dear Shirley,*

*God does value women! He puts men and women on the same plane, breaking down barriers. However, He has also made us different and clearly knows how we can complement each other.*

*I have witnessed a breakdown in families and society stemming from individuals being basically self-centered and insisting on their rights. There is balance and harmony in the body of Christ and in the home when individuals accept their roles in an humble, submissive manner to the Lord.*

*I have observed God honoring marriages that are a picture of Christ and the Church. This harmony comes through submission, not demanding our rights.*

*My husband and I have two daughters that have been married for a number of years. We are very proud of them as wives and mothers because I can see them modeling the Ephesian passage. One of our daughters has always been very head strong. She has chosen to trust her husband in matters of leadership and management. He responds to her in love and a desire to provide for their family. Our other daughter is married to a very strong-willed man. Her marriage has sometimes been difficult, but I can see the fruit of her submission.*

*As you well know, the subject you have addressed is controversial and divisive. I want to see only men in leadership as deacons and pastors. I do not have a beef. However, if this issue is ever confronted in our local church, I will have a beef, and predict that it would be very divisive.*