

Christian nations do not surpass pagan nations in any other way so fully as in the respect paid to woman, and the recognition given to her as man's equal. The curse of subserviency to man is felt least where Christianity has most influence, and the time is not far distant when women will be as free as men. Till they have the complete freedom contemplated by the teaching that each individual soul is directly responsible in thought and act, the progress of Christian work will be slower than it should be. The terrible curse of subordination has crippled the highest powers of women too long. Women and men should unite in hearty, earnest effort to overcome the effects of this great evil, and to hasten the time when there shall be no shadow between a single human soul and its highest duty. The fall and the redemption are co-extensive; men and women caused the fall and brought the curse, men and women must co-operate with God in its removal.

A large number of people satisfy themselves with the idea of woman's subservience to man by quoting Gen. ii. 18, "I will make thee an helpmeet for him." It is somewhat difficult to understand how men should come to think that in making a helpmeet for man God must necessarily make an inferior. Neither the verse itself nor the context justifies such an inference. Dr. Adam Clarke says, in his comments on this verse: "This implies that the woman was to be a perfect resemblance of the man, possessing neither inferiority nor superiority, but being in all things alike and equal to himself," and in explaining Genesis iii. 16, he says, "At their creation both (man and woman) were formed with equal rights." Matthew Henry's commentary on Genesis ii. 18 explains "helpmeet" as "a help like him, one of the same nature and the same rank of beings." A wife can be a true helpmeet only when she is her husband's equal in liberty.

Paul's writings are the only other parts of Scripture quoted to show that woman must remain subservient to man.

Paul's references to women were based on the social customs and conventionalities of a period nearly 2,000 years ago. In Paul's time women had not merely to submit to their husbands,