- What is the husband's unique role in marriage?
- What is the wife's unique role in marriage?
- Are there "male" roles and "female" roles?
- How do you share household duties?
- How do you share family responsibilities?
- Does the Bible provide guidelines for roles & responsibilities in marriage?

# Hagar the Horrible By Chris Browne 10/23/10



# Traditional roles in our society (previous generations):

- Husband is head of household, breadwinner
- Wife is homemaker, child raiser

# Roles in our society today:

- Husband/wife both employed
- Share household duties
- Share responsibilities for children

### Husband? Wife? Shared?

- House cleaning
- Yard work
- Spiritual leadership
- Parenting
- Major decisions
- Financial management
- Household repairs
- Grocery shopping

- Driving
- Pet care
- Cooking
- Laundry
- Car maintenance
- Social plans
- Answering mail

# Old Testament teachings

<u>Creation</u>: The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.' Genesis 2:18,22

After the fall: 'Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.'

Genesis 3:16

#### 2 understandings:

Calvin: a hierarchy from creation – God, man, woman; sin introduced hostility into the relationship (common among evangelical Christians)

Luther: man and woman created "equal in all aspects;" sin introduced domination and subordination, not part of the vision of creation (position of early Anabaptists, including Menno Simons)

# New Testament teachings:

- Jesus supported equality and mutuality did not endorse the Jewish divorce practices, upheld the rights of women (Matthew 19:3-6)
- Paul compares male-female relationships to the God-Christ relationship
  - 1 Cor 11:3 headship = God>Christ>man>woman
  - 1 Cor 11:8-9 "man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man."
  - 1 Cor 11:11-12 "In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman."
  - Eph 5:21 submit to one another
  - Eph 5:22-33 husband-wife relationship modeled on Christ-church relationship

# In summary:

- The Bible does not speak to specific roles in marriage, but focuses on the quality of the relationship: love, respect, trust, mutual submission, unity of purpose
- Domination and 'ruling over' are the result of sin (Gen.3:16)
- Appropriate roles are determined by ability and preference, not gender