

## WOMAN CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

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### ABSTRACT

Christian women are important pillars in every dimension of life. In the family, women act as mothers and helpers for their husbands and children. In society, women act as balancers and at the same time control for actions that emphasize emotions and physical strength. Because women always act with love and compassion. Although there are still many people who underestimate and even tend to deny the abilities of women. It is normal for women to work as equals to men. But as a Christian woman, you must remain subject to what is in the Bible. Namely remaining a wife who respects her husband and is a helper for the family.

**Keywords:** Career woman, Christian marriage, church

### INTRODUCTION

According to the Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language, a woman is a woman, but the word is more polite than a woman or a princess. In this study, the word career woman is used, not career woman, because it is related to the general term that applies and follows the development of the Indonesian language today, that the word woman occupies a respectable position and connotation. This word has undergone an amelioration process, namely a change in meaning that is increasingly positive, the current meaning is higher than the previous meaning. A career in the general sense is a job that provides hope for progress. Does someone receive a salary or other award, to be enjoyed by themselves, their family and society as long as the job brings progress. A career woman means having a special job outside the home in order to actualize themselves and pursue a particular field. Career women are those who work, but they also pursue and maintain a position or social status (self-actualization), and to meet their needs, or their energy is needed in one field.

Based on the definition above, the researcher concludes that a career woman is a woman who actualizes herself outside her role as a housewife in a particular field.

#### **Advantages of Career Women**

1. Professional Development.  
Career women have the opportunity to develop their skills and expertise in the field of work they are engaged in. They can achieve high career achievements and build a strong professional reputation.
2. Financial Independence.  
By having a career, women can become financially independent. They can manage their own finances, make financial decisions, and build financial stability for the future.
3. Social Influence and Leadership.  
Career women often have the opportunity to influence decisions in the workplace and may hold leadership positions. They can be role models and inspirations for others in the workplace.
4. Recognition and Awards

Career achievements are often recognized and appreciated professionally. This can increase self-confidence and provide personal satisfaction.

### **Dis-advantages of Career Women**

1. **Career-Life Balance.**  
Career women often struggle to find a balance between the demands of their work and their personal lives. Managing time efficiently is key to maintaining this balance.
2. **High Professional Demands**  
Some industries or career positions can be very demanding, including long work schedules and pressure to meet performance targets.
3. **Challenges for Women in the Workplace.**  
Sometimes, women may face stereotypes and discrimination in the workplace. They may need to work harder to prove their abilities.

### **Advantage of Housewife**

1. **Dedication to Family**  
Housewives can fully focus on the needs and development of their families. They can give full attention and support to their spouses and children.
2. **Time Flexibility**  
Housewives have the flexibility to manage their own time. They can arrange their daily schedules to suit the needs of their families.
3. **Family Relationship Development**  
With more time spent at home, housewives can build strong relationships with their family members. They can be a pillar of strength and emotional support.

### **Disadvantage of Housewife**

1. **Financial Dependence**  
Women at home may experience financial dependence on their partners. This can be challenging if there is a change in the family's financial situation.
2. **Limitations in Career Development**  
Women at home may face limitations in developing a professional career or pursuing further education if time and resources are limited.
3. **Importance of Recognition of the Role of the Household**  
Sometimes, the role of women at home does not always get the recognition they deserve in society. They may feel underappreciated for their contribution in creating a healthy and happy family environment.

In every choice, there are certainly advantages and disadvantages, as well as the choice to become a career woman. Here are the advantages of becoming a career woman. First, Increased financial resources. Second, Expanded network of relationships. Third, Availability of opportunities to channel talents and hobbies. Fourth, Open opportunities to realize a positive self-image. Fifth, in terms of social status, they are more respected. Another positive impact experienced by a career woman is when the wife also works to earn a living, the husband's burden will be slightly reduced. The many roles of the wife in the household and the additional responsibilities in the office, not only have an impact on the career woman, but also on the household, husband and children. However, a wife who works outside the home (career woman) can also increase the family's financial resources which automatically reduces the husband's burden to earn a living. With these two roles, it is not uncommon to find a wife who has a career but manages to balance both roles, so that the husband is able to feel satisfaction in the marriage in his household. Facts found in the field show that families with a wife's income that is higher than the husband's income will cause discomfort by the husband in the form of shame and "inferiority" both to the wife and the wife's family, because his income is greater, the wife also plays a more important role in the family. Because of the husband's discomfort, it can cause stiffness in communication between the husband and wife.

Unlike men, often the role of the wife and career do not run harmoniously. There are people who believe that the wife should stay at home and take care of the family.

Here are some principles that can be considered.

1. Set priorities for life goals. Both men and women must have a clear and biblical priority system. God prioritizes humans and their growth over their achievements or deeds.
2. If this is God's value system, it should be followed and this means that in decision making, humans or family will be prioritized above work or career. And this applies to both men and women, without exception. Practically, every decision that requires us to choose between career and family, the choice is family. Of course, the obligation to fulfill the basic needs of the family is a demand that we must strive for, but above basic needs, family is what we must prioritize. If God prioritizes the human factor, we must also prioritize it.
3. God does not establish one model of marriage. Maybe some of us immediately comment that women should not have careers because God wants women to be housewives and husbands to be breadwinners. Although this belief sounds spiritual, the reality is that this belief is not biblical, in the sense that the Bible itself never offers this formula. In fact, the Bible itself provides various examples of women's roles. Proverbs 31, which is often identified with the proverb of the wise woman, actually shows the role of women as workers, not just as housewives. Another example of a woman who worked as an entrepreneur is Lydia, a "seller of purple from the city of Thyatira" (Acts 16:14); Priscilla, the wife of Aquila, who sometimes went with Paul to preach the gospel (Acts 18:19). From all these examples it is clear that these women are people who are actively involved in ministry or work outside the home.
4. Pay attention to and accept each other's nature. Let us not depend on other people's judgments for our self-esteem; accept each other's nature and develop according to that nature. There is an English proverb that we should listen to, "Be yourself, but be the best of you!" (Be yourself, but be the best of you.) We will not be able to give our best if we ourselves are not the best.
5. Replace what we have taken from the family. Inevitably, our time and presence in the home will be limited due to the increasing demands to be outside the home. This means that we take something from inside the home for the benefit of outside the home.

If this is what we have to do, plan and prepare everything as well as possible. Each role, whether as a career woman or a housewife, has its own unique advantages and challenges. It is important to respect the choices and contributions of each woman in society. As social and economic dynamics change, more and more women are integrating these two roles or choosing a path that suits their aspirations and personal values. What is most important is how each woman feels satisfied and happy with their decisions in managing their roles in everyday life.

Therefore, it is recommended that families with a wife with a higher income maintain good and open communication between both the wife and the husband. It is also recommended that wives who earn more than their husbands not have power in the household in the sense of not taking over all decisions in household matters but handing over to their husbands what should be the husband's rights, so that the husband's comfort in the household is maintained.

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