

The Stations of a Woman

As Defined by Scripture

COVERED¹

Desirable

Non-Sexual

- Father
 - Son
 - Brother
 - Other
 - Temporary celibate²
 - Betrothed
- May move³
- Celibate⁴, avowed (Permanent)

Sexual

A man's **"Woman" / "Wife"**⁵

Permanent. Belongs to the man.⁶
Provision,⁷ security.
Conjugal rights
Inheritance.
Adultery is only exit.

Special Categories:

Queen

Daughter of nobility

Concubine⁸

Honorable Moral Status⁹
Lower Legal Status, e.g.
Less right to Inheritance¹⁰
Negotiable/variable terms¹¹

Covering¹:

Under the headship or full legal authority of a man. Can be sexual or non-sexual depending on relationship.

UNCOVERED¹

Undesirable

No Male Headship

(May not be woman's fault)

Regarded as,

- Shameful (Is. 4:1)
- A Reproach
- Outside of God's design
- Little/no legal protection

Additional info and explanatory notes

1. Covering means to be under the **full legal authority** of a man.
 - I Cor. 11:3, 7-12; Num. 30; Gen. 1:26,7; 2:7-25; 3:20
 - Woman was made FROM man, FOR man, brought TO man, named BY man in both generic and personal aspect. Scripturally, to be UNcovered was to have no legal protection or guardian. Ironically, most women today consider themselves 'liberated,' however, Scripture regards this as a place of shame, reproach, harlotry and exposure with no legal and little spiritual protection. Today's feminist 'woman' would be regarded by the Patriarchs and prophets as a rebellious harlot.
2. A woman under the protective covering of a non-family member (elder, e.g.) for protection until she can find a husband. Some non-sexual concubines may fit here.
3. All, except avowed celibate, when of the appropriate age, can and should seek refuge under the wing of a man who can meet all needs. Ex. 21:8, 9; 1 Tim. 5:9,11,14
4. 1 Tim. 5:9-11
5. There is no word for 'wife' in the Hebrew Bible. Actual passages state, 'the woman of...' or 'his woman...' indicating ownership of the woman, she being under the man's legal authority.
6. Women did not have property or child custody rights. The man is undisputed head/authority/owner of the family unit.
7. Ex. 21:10
8. Christendom has wrongly denigrated the honorable and legal status of 'concubine.' Generally, the only difference between what we call a 'wife' and a 'concubine' was how they came into the relationship with the man. See below.
9. Often a woman who entered the relationship by romantic love, not by dowry or arrangement. 'Concubine' in **NO way** implies 'mistress.' Often had no contract/ketubah and therefore less legal protection.
10. Scripture *seems* to indicate that a concubine did not have as much legal protection as a free-born woman who was acquired from her father.
11. Scripture is a bit vague on the exact boundaries that define a concubine leaving the distinct impression that the terms are negotiable and the man has authority and latitude when setting expectations and boundaries for his concubine.

Additional Resources

BiblicalFamilies.org
Natsab.com/biblical-marriage/
Man and Woman in Biblical Law, Shipley, Tom., 2010.
The Great Omission, Pilkington, Clyde L., Jr., 2010
Thelyphthora, Volume I, Madan, Martin, 1781