The Proper Translation of ἄνηρ and Γυνή in the New Testament

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Introduction

There is an inherent tension whenever we translate a specific portion of Scripture. On the one hand, we desire to render our translation in the best idiomatic English possible, and on the other hand we desire to say no more and no less than what the original Greek or Hebrew says. At times this is merely difficult, at other times it is nearly impossible. Sometimes we are forced to paraphrase the original in order to get the full thought expressed there into the English. At other times we consciously or unconsciously make interpretations in our translations.

This last has become a problem in our fellowship with regard to the translation of the Greek words ἄνηρ and Γυνή. The fact is that these two words may be rendered either “man-woman” or “husband-wife” in English. That in itself would not be a problem, as long as everyone translated them properly in every instance. The problem is, however, that not only are those words translated inconsistently, they are mistranslated in very important sections of Scripture that deal with a topic vital in today’s culture.

The issue of male and female roles is that topic. Many in the WELS felt, perhaps naively so, that once the document Scriptural Principles of Man and Woman Roles was adopted by the Synod convention, that all argument would be at an end. After all, the theses presented in that document correctly proclaim the Word of truth. And yet that document did not end controversy; instead it fanned controversy’s flames. That document correctly exposes the falsehood the liberal theologians are teaching. It makes clear that the passages dealing with male and female roles were not merely customs of that day, but are, in fact, part of God’s revealed will. The door seemed to be closed to those who wanted to restrict or nullify the meaning of passages such as those in 1 Corinthians 11 and 14, and that in 1 Timothy 2. Still, controversy rages on, based mainly upon the translation of these two simple words.

The problem in translating ἄνηρ tend Γυνή has been that up until now no objective method for determining their proper translation has been put into thorough use. That being the case, those who disagree with the statements made in Scriptural Principles have felt justified in their opinion that their translation was just as valid as any other. This has been made clear by such papers as Passages Which Seem To Limit The Role Of Women/Wives and Heirs Together Of The Gracious Gift Of Life. In both of these papers the authors have tried to convince us that since Γυνή and ἄνηρ can mean “wife” and “husband” respectively, they do mean such in those passages dealing with male and female roles. However, we are not without an objective method for determining the meanings of these words. A thorough and careful application of the Historical-Grammatical method of exegesis clearly provides us with an objective method to answer such questions. This paper will show that there are objective rules to be used in translating the words ἄνηρ and Γυνή, and that these objective principles of hermeneutics lead us to the conclusions drawn in Scriptural Principles. I also hope that this paper will help

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1 Hereafter, this document will be referred to simply as Scriptural Principles.
2 Hereafter, this document will be referred to simply as Passages.
3 Hereafter, this document will be referred to simply as Heirs.
strengthen each of us in our knowledge and understanding of God’s Word just as the Lord has strengthened me through this study. It is with these goals in mind that I present this paper.

I. THE PRINCIPLES BEHIND THIS STUDY

All the conclusion drawn in Passages and Heirs are based, essentially, upon word meanings. The words they have called into question are γυνή, ἄνὴρ and κεφαλή.”

The author of Passages states in his paper, “The Greek word ἄνὴρ can be translated as ‘male human’ or ‘husband,’ and the Greek word γυνὴ can be translated as ‘female human’ or ‘wife.’” This is true enough and we have no problems with that statement. But later he says, “Without … demonstrating a specific and exclusive definition of the term here, the normal, accepted principles of Bible interpretation (hermeneutics) would require us to allow either definition to stand.” What this author says here is true only in part. Lutherans believe Scripture has just one literal sense, which is demanded by word meaning, grammar, and context. Accepted principles of hermeneutics simply admit that we are unwilling or unable to establish beyond doubt the one literal sense in some passages. Good hermeneutics never says two different interpretations of one passage are both intended by the author. The implication the author of Passages makes is that there is no proof, found in any of the passages dealing with the role relationships to demand one translation over another. Thus he makes his case for allowing ἄνὴρ and γυνὴ to be translated “husband” and “wife” in the passages mentioned. Unfortunately this argument really calls into question the clarity of Scripture. When good hermeneutics says that we must leave more than one possibility open in a passage, our own stupidity, blindness and lack of linguistic competence is at fault not the words used by the inspired authors. If the author of Passages were correct in his interpretation, he would have to demand the translation “husband/wife” in these passages instead of merely leaving that possibility open as an option as he does.

The men who wrote Heirs take the same position:

In English we are accustomed to distinguish between the words “man” and “husband” and between the words “woman” and “wife.” But in Greek the word ἄνερ can be used to mean either “man” or “husband” and the word γυνὴ can mean either “woman” or “wife.” The translator must therefore make a choice on the basis of his understanding of the context. In a number of passages where the NIV has “man” and “woman” we prefer the translation “husband” and “wife”—as do a number of Bible translations.

These men, apparently, have made the criteria for making a decision on the translation of ἄνὴρ and γυνὴ even less demanding than the author of Passages. That decision is left up to the translator’s understanding of the context. The way they have stated it makes the decision a matter of personal preference based on the translator’s opinion, since they seem to believe that no objective evidence needs to be given. Perhaps they have in mind the

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4 This paper will deal only with the translation of γυνὴ and ἄνὴρ. It will not deal with κεφαλή, since that word falls outside its scope.

For a good study on κεφαλή, see Professor David Kuske’s “Exegesis of 1 Corinthians 11:3-16” found in the Wisconsin Lutheran Quarterly either volume 78 or 82, and also found in The Role of Man and Woman in God’s Order of Creation, found at the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Bookstore. The salient section begins on the second page of the Quarterly edition and on page 24 in the Bookstore compilation.

5 Diener, Passages, p. 1.

6 Diener, Passages, p. 2.

7 Stadler, Albrecht, & Johnson, Heirs, p. 4.
same criteria that the author of *Passages* uses, but they do not mention them. They ignore the fact that a translator’s understanding of the context may be flawed and incomplete, or even entirely wrong. They ignore the fact that a translator’s understanding may be so colored by what he wants (or doesn’t want) to see in the text that he ignores the context altogether. The translator’s understanding of the context must be subject to certain rules of grammar, or else he can make the passage say whatever he wants it to say.

Thankfully, the disagreement in our synod about this question is not due to mere differing judgments for which we can expect no defining statement from Scripture. Rather, there are objective rules of hermeneutics that guide us here, not just our own subjective judgment, or our own understanding of the traditional historical interpretation of these passages. There are several sound hermeneutical principles, then, that need to be taken into account:

1 — The wider and narrower meanings must be determined. The wider meaning must be understood as the author’s intention unless he himself gives us valid and objective reasons for understanding the narrower meaning.

2 — The meanings most commonly and least commonly used must also be determined. The more commonly used meaning must be understood as the author’s intention rather than the less common meaning. Again this is true unless there are valid and objective reasons in the text itself for taking the less commonly used meaning.

3 — In each case it must be determined whether there are direct modifiers, indirect modifiers or context that show a clear restriction to the narrower and less common meaning. In such cases the word must be translated with that meaning. In this case there is also support for treating following verses in the same way especially if the writer indicates a continuation of thought by the use of conjunctions or particles which tie the verses together as a unit.

4 — It must be determined whether there is a clear restriction to the wider meaning in each occurrence. This can often be determined by attempting to substitute the narrower meaning, as well as by looking at direct modifiers. If there is a clear restriction to the wider meaning there is support for treating surrounding verses in the same way, especially if the writer indicates a continuation of thought by the use of particles or conjunctions which tie the verses together as a unit.

5 — The translator also needs to determine if there are other passages in Scripture that support the doctrine in question or refute it. If there are passages that refute the doctrine the translator must not use the translation that would contradict Scripture. If there are parallel passages (i.e. passages that speak about the same thing in the same or similar words) that do support the doctrine, these become additional witnesses to the fact that the translation is correct.

These five principles take into account the grammatical reasons for choosing one meaning for a word over another. They also take into account the Scriptural context. It is on the basis of these five principles that every determination of a word’s meaning should be made. Various shadings that do not change the basic meaning of a

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8 While it may seem here that principles 1 and 2 are very similar, there is a distinct difference. With some words the wider meaning may have fallen into disuse and thus it is not the most commonly used. In such cases the second principle should be given more weight than the first. In cases where a word meets both of these criteria there must be good evidence if a secondary and less common meaning is to be used.

9 This criteria is the least conclusive for those trying to disprove the doctrine, since the opponents of the doctrine could call into question every passage of Scripture dealing with that doctrine, thus effectively leaving no others to support it. For those attempting to prove the doctrine this is a significant point since other passages that support the doctrine remove from the opponents the argument that this doctrine is foreign to Scripture.
word can be made on the basis of the translator’s preference. For example “last will and testament,” “covenant,” and “testament” are all valid shadings of διαθήκη. These shadings, however, do not change the basic meaning of the word. The translation choice between man and husband or woman and wife, however, is a different case. In this instance there is a fundamental difference in the scope of the words which would yield two differing views of this Biblical doctrine. This choice is not merely a shading. Thus, the translation choice for ἄνηρ and γυνή must be based upon these principles and objective evidence in the text, not merely upon the translator’s preference.

Principle One: Wider and Narrower Meaning

Determining the wider and narrower meaning with regard to the nouns ἄνηρ and γυνή is a rather easy matter. The wider meaning for these words in Greek is the same as in English. With each it is obvious that the translation indicating marital status (i.e. “husband”, “wife”) is the narrower since all husbands are males, and all wives are females, but not all males are husbands nor are all females wives. Thus, our first reaction when coming into contact with either of these words should be to assume that they say nothing in regard to marital status unless there is objective evidence to the contrary based on one of the following principles.

Principle Two: Common Usage

The principle of common usage, as we would reasonably expect, again points to the wider meanings for ἄνηρ and γυνή. Appendices A-C detail the study of each occurrence of ἄνηρ and γυνή in both the Septuagint11 and the New Testament. Appendix C shows the figures regarding the usage of ἄνηρ and γυνή. It is clear that “man” and “woman” are the most basic and common meanings for these words. ἄνηρ was used with the meaning “man” 1658 times out of 1836 occurrences, or 90% of the time and γυνή was used with the meaning “woman” 565 times out of 1148 occurrences, or 49% of the time.12 With ἄνηρ, then, the principle would clearly tell us that the most common usage does not refer to marital status. With γυνή, however, the percentages are equally divided, and the case is not as clear.13 The following principles will be of great value, then, in determining how γυνή ought to be translated.

10 In our discussion of these principles the three passages questioned (1 Corinthians 11 and 14, and 1 Timothy 2) are not taken into consideration since the meaning of ἄνηρ and γυνή in these passages is being disputed. A thorough application of these five principles will be made with those passages later in this paper.

11 Hereafter, the Septuagint will be referred to as the LXX.

In reference to the usage of ἄνηρ and γυνή in the LXX, this author does not intend to say anything about the accuracy or reliability of that translation. Instead, he is merely taking into account how these words are used in that translation. There may be those who contend that the usage of ἄνηρ and γυνή in the LXX has nothing to do with the usage of those same words in the NT, because the LXX comes from an earlier period in history and thus the language may not be exactly parallel to that used in the NT, and also because the language in the LXX may have been influenced by constructions peculiar to the Hebrew. On the other hand, the writers of the NT had intimate knowledge of the LXX, and it likely had an influence on the writing they did in the NT. Also the writers of the NT used Aramaic as their first language, and so hebraisms in their writings should not surprise us. This then would result in a high correlation between the way the NT used ἄνηρ and γυνή, and how the LXX used them. Since that high correlation does exist, this author felt that including the patterns of usage from the LXX was both legitimate and useful.

12 Totals of all occurrences in Greek New Testament, and Septuagint (including Apocrypha).

13 It should be noted, however, that in the Greek New Testament alone the figures for γυνή indicate “woman” as the intended meaning 59% of the time. The lower incidence of this meaning in the LXX is easily accounted for since Old Testament history focuses most of
As we examine these first two principles, we need to recognize an important truth. While we can translate the Greek ἀνήρ and γυνὴ as “man” and “woman” or “husband” and “wife,” this is an English translational assumption made to aid readers in the interpretation of a passage. Those who spoke Greek did not think “Paul here is talking about wives not women, or husbands not men.” In the Greek mind there was no difference between the γυνὴ in a passage where we attach the meaning “woman,” and the γυνὴ where we attach the meaning “wife.” The same is true of ἀνήρ. These words always refer to gender even when spoken of within the context of marriage, and any idea of marital status that we add to them comes not from within the vocable itself but from the surrounding context. The Greeks didn’t have two different words commonly used to distinguish between a “wife” and a “woman” or a “man” and a “husband.” It is only when we attempt to translate these words that we attach one or the other meaning to the words. Paul’s readers did not have to do that. In short, translating γυνὴ and ἀνήρ as anything other than “woman” and “man” is not so much translation as it is interpretation.

We see similar usage in our own language. If a woman speaks of “a man,” or “the man,” there is no linguistic reason for us to assume anything about that person’s relationship to the woman. If, on the other hand, she says “my man” there is clearly an indication of a relationship. If she says “my old man,” the relationship is made even clearer. When she says, “the man I married” there can be absolutely no doubt as to her relationship to the man. However, unless she chooses to use modifying words like these, it is a twisting of her words to claim that “the man” she talked about is her husband.

Clearly then, in Greek as in English, modifiers (both direct and indirect) make it obvious what the man or woman’s status is. Thus “your man” is typically, though not necessarily, translated “husband” and “your woman” is typically translated “wife.” Without these modifiers (direct and/or indirect) we have no grammatical or Scriptural basis to translate ἄνηρ or γυνὴ in any fashion that indicates marital status. In fact, it would be perfectly understandable in English if we were to translate every occurrence of γυνὴ in the New Testament as “woman” and every occurrence of ἄνηρ in the New Testament as “man.” No confusion would result, no meaning would be lost except in one instance where Paul uses a construction that is unfamiliar to the English ear.

Professor David Kuske says much the same thing regarding the meaning of γυνὴ in his exegesis of 1 Timothy 2:11:

Perhaps the obvious should also be stated, namely, the basic meaning of γυνὴ points simply to the female sex and so “woman” is the basic meaning of the word. Unless the context compels the meaning “wife,” γυνὴ is to be understood as “woman.”

In his paper on the order of creation he also includes ἄνηρ in his discussion:

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its attention on the ancestors of Christ. Thus most of the women specifically mentioned are wives. Nevertheless, the clear indications of how γυνὴ is used overall would lead us to understand it as referring to gender and not marital status.

In Greek, ἄνηρ and γυνή normally refer to male and female. Therefore, the syntax and the context of any given passage must combine to show clearly that the meaning is husband and wife; otherwise the meaning male and female is the sense.15

So then, unless there is clear and convincing proof from direct or indirect modifiers, or from overwhelming context, there is absolutely no reason to add the idea “married” to the basic meanings of ἄνηρ and γυνή. In fact, if we look at all occurrences of ἄνηρ and γυνή in the LXX and Greek New Testament and look at the number of times that context alone adds the idea of marital status to the basic meaning of these words, the common usage becomes extremely clear. Out of 1836 occurrences of ἄνηρ, only 17 are translated “husband” on the basis of context alone. That equals less than 1% of all occurrences. The totals for γυνή are nearly as striking. Out of 1148 occurrences, only 40 or 3% are translated “wife” on the basis of context alone.

**Principle Three: Clear Restrictions to the Narrower Meaning**

Perhaps at this point we should discuss just exactly what is meant by the terms: “direct modifier,” “indirect modifier” and “context.” The term “direct modifier” indicates any word that directly alters the meaning of another. This group includes possessive pronouns or genitives, adjectives, attributive participles, and the like.

The term “indirect modifier” means any word that does not directly modify the word in question, but still has an impact on its meaning. This is really a subset of what has typically been called “context.” We treat indirect modifiers separately from context because there is a definite difference between “context,” that is, the general topic that is being discussed (for example, the family), and the other surrounding words that have an impact on the meaning of a vocable (for example, the verb ἔχω definitely alters the meaning of γυνή in the phrase εἴ τις ἀδελφός γυναῖκα ἔχει “if some brother has a woman/wife”). An indirect modifier may also be a previous reference to the same person that is directly modified (e.g. “Sam’s wife is a great musician. The woman is a concert pianist.”)

“Context” simply means the general topic at hand. If the distinction between context and indirect modifier is difficult to understand, or you don’t find it useful you may simply replace the phrase “indirect modifier,” wherever it occurs, with the word “context” and there should be no lack of understanding, nor would that decision alter the results of this study. Generally, the order of importance for these three, from greatest to least, would be direct modifiers, indirect modifiers and finally general context.

**Direct Modifiers**

Generally speaking this is the easiest type of modifier to analyze. It is also the most common method used in the Greek to add the idea of marital status to ἄνηρ and γυνή. Out of 1836 occurrences of ἄνηρ, 120 or 6% have a direct modifier which adds the idea of marital status and allows the translation “husband.” For γυνή the figure is 394 out of 1148 or 34%. The most common direct modifier—the LXX rarely uses anything else—is the possessive. But, especially in the New Testament, there are also other words which directly add the idea of marital status to these words. The adjective ὕπανδρος (“married”) is one obvious example.16

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16 Since there shouldn’t be any question as to the meaning or intent of direct modifiers I am not going to give a comprehensive list here of all the direct modifiers that are used in the NT. Such a list may be found in Appendix B.
One caution regarding such direct modifiers, however, is that possessives do not always indicate a marriage relationship. If a woman is told to speak to “her man” it is very likely that this is a reference to her husband, but the phrase could refer to her father or brother. Other times the direct modifier is an adjective like ὕπανδρος, which makes the translation “wife” redundant in the English, (e.g. “the married wife”). In cases such as these the meaning is clear without our interpreting in our translation, and, in fact, cases like these help to prove that the primary meaning of ἀνήρ and γυνή is “man” and “woman.” Nevertheless, direct modifiers, including possessives, are very good for determining when the idea of marital status is being added to ἀνήρ and γυνή. Such direct modifiers allow us to translate “husband” and “wife” if such a translation is needed to express the meaning of the original clearly in English.

Indirect Modifiers

Most indirect modifiers are verbs. We have mentioned ἔχω. The others used in the NT are: γίνομαι, γαμέω, δέω, χωρίζω, καταλλάσσω, ἀφίημι, ἀπολύω, λαμβάνω, ἀρμόζομαι, συνοικέω, and the phrase ζάω μετὰ. Obviously, to be considered indirect modifiers of ἀνήρ or γυνή, these verbs must be grammatically connected to one or the other. They are not always indirect modifiers just by virtue of their presence. Typically, ἀνήρ or γυνή, or both are the subject or the direct object of the verb.

Ἔχω is often used to identify a marriage relationship between a man and woman. Paul uses it this way in 1 Corinthians 7. The idiom in English is little different when a person asks “do you have a wife?” A good example is found in 1 Corinthians 7:12.

Γίνομαι, perhaps more than any other verb here, may seem to be out of place in a list of words that would force the meaning of “husband” or “wife.” However, Bauer-Arndt-Gingrich-Danker says this of γίνομαι: “3. w. dat. of the pers. belong to someone … of a woman ἀνδρὶ ἑτέρῳ Ro 7:3f.” In fact, in Romans 7:3 the NIV translates the verb γένηται “marries.”

Γαμέω, δέω and ἀρμόζομαι are much more straightforward. With the meanings “to marry,” “to be married” and “to promise or give in marriage” respectively, no one can miss the point. Examples are found in Matthew 19:10, 1 Corinthians 7:27, and 2 Corinthians 11:2, respectively.

Χωρίζω, ἀπολύω and ἀφίημι are likewise clear, all three can mean “to divorce.” Again these verbs clearly modify both subject and direct object. Examples are found in 1 Corinthians 7:10; Matthew 5:31; and 1 Corinthians 7:11, respectively.

Λαμβάνω means “to take.” When used in reference to a man “taking” a woman, it means “to marry” or in the English idiom “to take a wife.” One example of this usage is found in Mark 12:19.

Καταλλάσσω should be familiar as meaning “to reconcile.” With regard to the relationship between a man and woman it is used with reference to the ending of a separation or divorce. That is the way Paul uses this term when speaking of men and women in 1 Corinthians 7:11.

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Συνοικέω and the phrase ζέω μετὰ both mean the same thing, “to live together or with.” When speaking of this happening between men and women in an approving way, there can be no other conclusion other than that this also refers to marriage, and thus must influence our translation of ἀνήρ and γυνή. Examples are found in 1 Peter 3:7, and Luke 2:36 respectively.

There are also other indirect modifiers that will have an impact on the translation of ἀνήρ and γυνή. Among them are situations where one or the other is the antecedent to a possessive. In Ephesians 5:22 Paul writes, “Αἱ γυναῖκες τοῖς ἰδίοις ἄνδράσιν ὡς τῷ κυρίῳ.” In this situation Αἱ γυναῖκες is the antecedent of τοῖς ἰδίοις, the possessive that makes it clear that ἄνδράσιν refers more specifically to husbands. As the antecedent, then, Αἱ γυναῖκες is also influenced in its meaning to include the designation of marital status.

Finally there is the phrase pattern μιᾶς γυναικὸς ἄνδρα, used four times by Paul. Now while a person may argue that there really is nothing here to indicate an indirect modification, I believe that the pattern itself leaves no room for understanding this as referring to anything other than marriage. If you wish not to put this phrase pattern under the heading of indirect modifiers, you may feel free to translate it literally: “a one woman man.”

The statistics for such indirect modifiers and their use in the LXX and the New Testament are as follows: ἀνήρ is influenced by indirect modifiers to mean “husband” 41 times out of 1836 occurrences or 2% of the time. γυνή is influenced by indirect modifiers to mean “wife” 149 times out of 1148 occurrences, or about 13% of the time. Even if a person wanted to classify these indirect modifiers as simply context, the overwhelming majority of all occurrences of ἀνήρ and γυνή would still either clearly demand the translation of “man” and “woman” or would clearly demand the translation of “husband” and “wife” because of direct modifiers. Well over 90% of the time we have absolutely no discretion whatsoever in translating these words. Statements like, “these Greek words may be translated either man/woman or husband/wife,” imply that the translation of these words is often uncertain. Such statements tend to lead people with no linguistic training to believe that choosing one translation or the other lies in the realm of “artistic license.” This implication is not borne out by the facts. Rather, the objective facts compel us to conclude: unless a direct or indirect modifier, or general context clearly demands it, a translation which adds the concept of marital status to the simple meanings of ἀνήρ and γυνή, clearly violates sound hermeneutical principles.

Context

Context alone, as has been mentioned before, accounts for a very small percentage of the times ἀνήρ and γυνή are translated “husband” and “wife” overall (1% for ἀνήρ and 3% for γυνή). However, it is more common for this to happen in the New Testament than in the LXX. About 7% of the occurrences of ἀνήρ in the New Testament are decided on context alone, and the figure is about 10% for γυνή. There is a very logical reason for the discrepancy between the LXX and the New Testament. In the New Testament there are rather long discourses on marriage and the family not found in the LXX. In such cases it would only seem natural that once it has been firmly established that marriage or the family is the topic, the context alone would determine the meaning of ἀνήρ and γυνή. In fact, if one looks only at the times when ἀνήρ and γυνή do not have overwhelming context to point to a translation of “husband” or “wife,” the percentages where context alone determines the translation drop down to a level much closer to the rate found in the LXX.
There are 14 times in the New Testament that ἀνήρ can be translated husband on the basis of context alone. Of these 14, eight are in 1 Corinthians 7. All forty verses of this chapter deal with the marriage relationship and Paul’s instructions regarding marriage. There are nine other occurrences of ἀνὴρ in this chapter. Three of them are directly modified by possessives; the other six are indirectly modified by verbs. It is interesting to note that despite the fact that Paul is clearly speaking of the marriage relationship, he still feels the need to make that fact crystal clear by adding all of these modifiers. Paul does the same for the occurrences of γυνὴ in this chapter as well. Out of the 17 occurrences of γυνὴ, ten refer to marital status on the basis of context alone, while seven have modifiers added. The context in this chapter, in fact, is so overwhelming that it would be impossible to misunderstand Paul even if you never once translated γυνὴ, “wife” or ἀνῆρ, “husband.”

The same overwhelming context pervades the discussion of marriage that Paul has with the Ephesians in chapter 5. In verses 22-33 Paul uses ἀνήρ six times and γυνὴ nine times. Here there are two direct modifiers attached to ἀνήρ, and five attached to γυνὴ. Again the topic at hand would have been enough to tell us that Paul is speaking of husbands and wives and yet he feels compelled by the Holy Spirit to make that clear to us by using these modifiers.

In Colossians the context is not as strong as in the two previous examples, however it is very clear that Paul is speaking of the household and the members of that household. He begins with husbands and wives and then moves on to children, slaves and the rest. Again, the context is strong enough to force a translation indicating marital status.

Outside of these three passages there are no occurrences where the translation “husband” is forced by context alone.

For γυνὴ there are 5 more occurrences where context forces a translation of “wife.” The first is from Mark 12:19. In this passage the context is the levirate law. That in itself is context enough to force the translation of “wife” in this passage. In Luke 18:29 it says, “‘I tell you the truth,’ Jesus said to them, ‘no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God ….’” Here again the context revolves around the family (Jesus lists off the various members), and wife is a valid translation of γυνὴ based on this context. 1 Corinthians 9:5 is the only place in the New Testament where an unmodified γυνὴ is translated “wife” without the strong or overwhelming type of context already noted. In this passage Paul says, “μὴ οὖν ἔχομεν ἐξουσίαν ἀδελφὴν γυναῖκα περιάγειν, ὡς καὶ οἱ λοιποὶ ἀπόστολοι καὶ οἱ ἀδελφοὶ τοῦ κυρίου καὶ Κηφᾶς;” The NIV translates this “Don’t we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord’s brothers and Cephas?” In this passage γυνὴ is translated “wife” to avoid redundancy between ἀδελφή and γυναῖκα (one who is a “sister” is, by definition, already a female), and also because of our knowledge that Peter was married.

The final occurrence of γυνὴ determined by context alone is in 1 Peter 3:1. The γυνὴ that we are concerned with here is the second occurrence in this passage. “Ομοίως αἱ γυναῖκες ὑποτασσόμεναι τοῖς ἰδίοις ἀνδράσις, ἵνα καὶ εἰ τινες ἀπειθοῦσιν τῷ λόγῳ διὰ τῆς τῶν γυναικῶν ἀναστροφῆς ἄνευ λόγου κερδηθῆσονται.” Here the first occurrence of γυνὴ (γυναῖκες) is the antecedent of τοῖς ἰδίοις, which directly modifies ἀνδράσιν to mean “husbands.” Thus

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18 All quotations of Scripture are taken from the NIV.
the first occurrence, of necessity, refers to wives. The second occurrence, however, also must mean wives since it is referring to the exact same group of people as the first γυνη, and since the first must be translated wives, the second must also, seeing that they refer to the same group. Also if we look at the topic Peter is discussing, we see that it is very similar in tone to the context of 1 Corinthians 7 and Ephesians 5.

Thus, if we look at only those occurrences that are determined by something less than an overwhelming context, there is only one instance in the entire New Testament (1 Corinthians 9:5) where a rather weak context demands a translation indicating marital status. The only logical conclusion, then, would be that unless there are direct or indirect modifiers, or an overwhelming context demanding the translation of “husband” or “wife,” ἀνήρ and γυνη ought not be translated as anything other than “man” and “woman.” This is the pattern we will use when looking at the passages called into question.

Finally, the translator needs to remember that when using context to determine word meanings, the preceding context is much more meaningful and compelling than the subsequent context. It would be rare, not to mention confusing, for a writer to intend a specific meaning for a word, and not make that clear until the mid-point or end of his argument. This general rule is consistently observed in all of the above situations regarding context with the one exception of 1 Corinthians 9:5. As a result, we may properly assume that if a writer does not make it crystal clear at the beginning of his argument that he is speaking specifically of the marriage relationship, his intent in the following verses is to speak of male and female as opposed to husband and wife, even if in his discussion of male and female roles he makes a specific application to husbands and wives.

**Principle Four: Clear Restrictions to the Wider Meaning**

This principle has essentially the same options available to it as were available for the last principle. Direct and indirect modifiers as well as context could all serve to clearly restrict the meaning of ἀνήρ or γυνη to the wider meaning. It is interesting to note, however, that while there were numerous different words and phrases that regularly restricted these two words to their narrower meaning, we have no such examples in the New Testament or the LXX restricting them to the wider meaning. There can be only one logical explanation: they were not needed as the force of ἀνήρ and γυνη alone are enough to compel a translation of “man” or “woman” without added modifiers.

If a word has two different meanings there are two options as to how a language would differentiate between them: 1) both word meanings would be used equally and thus some sort of modifier would be needed no matter which meaning was intended; or 2) one of the word meanings would be so dominant that it needed no modifier, while the other meaning would almost always need one to distinguish it from the dominant meaning. This last option is the situation we have with ἀνήρ and γυνη. Therefore any occurrence of ἀνήρ or γυνη in the absence of such modifiers (or very strong context) must be translated “man” or “woman.”

This principle, however, does not merely provide us with a reiteration of the conclusions we drew from principle three. It also gives us a very reliable test to determine whether the translation of “husband” or “wife” is likely, or even possible, in a given passage. The test, simply put, is to substitute the translation “husband” and “wife” for every occurrence of ἀνήρ and γυνη in the passage in question. If this results in impossible statements, then there is strong evidence that surrounding occurrences of ἀνήρ and γυνη are not referring to husbands and
wives. And if the passage in question is used to prove others, then they cannot refer to husbands and wives either. This test will prove valuable in at least one of the passages in question.

**Principle Five: Other Passages That Support the Doctrine**

This principle, although sound, is easily skirted by those who would wish to change the teachings of the Scriptures. It is a rather easy matter to call into question every prescriptive passage in the Bible with regard to a specific doctrine, and thus effectively remove those passages from the category of supporting passages, and into the main argument. This is exactly what has happened in *Passages* and *Heirs*.

The author of *Passages*, in his comments on 1 Corinthians 11, says:

> I am unaware of any other passage in God’s Word that speaks expressly of “male humans” ruling over, having authority over, or being the head of “female humans.” (I would be happy to be directed to other examples, if they exist.)

In all the passages I have studied in this regard (including 1 Corinthians 14 and 1 Timothy 2, cited in detail below, used in the document “Scriptural Principles of Man and Woman Roles”), there seems to be clear internal evidence suggesting and sometimes limiting the interpretation of the Greek or Hebrew words to “husband and wife.”

This is also done in the paper *Heirs*:

> In a number of passages where the NIV has “man” and “woman” we prefer the translation “husband” and “wife” —as do a number of Bible translations.21

We do not believe that 1 Corinthians 11:3 prescribes a general headship of men over women. This is one of the passages where we believe the scriptural context indicates the words ἀνήρ and γυνή are to be translated “husband” and “wife” as explained in the final paragraph of the Preamble.22

We do not believe that 1 Timothy 2:12 prohibits all women from any exercise of authority over men because St. Paul refers to the sin of Adam and Eve (1 Timothy 2:14) who are identified as husband and wife in Genesis 3:17. The reference to childbearing (1 Timothy 2:15) also indicates that he is discussing the relationships between husbands and wives.23

These two papers have called into question every prescriptive passage dealing with the role relationship, and thus effectively removed them from the discussion of this fifth hermeneutical principle and into the main discussion of the doctrine regarding male and female roles.

We do, however, have some descriptive passages that, while they can never be the basis of a doctrine, can be used to support the teachings presented in the passages called into question. Two such passages include:

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19 By “impossible statements” is not meant situations where this translation would merely result in redundancies, or where the translation would be rendered wooden, but rather situations where it is not possible because it would contradict other clear words of Scripture.


Isaiah 3:11-12 — Woe to the wicked! Disaster is upon them! They will be paid back for what their hands have done. Youths oppress my people, women rule over them. O my people, your guides lead you astray; they turn you from the path.

Numbers 8:16-19 — They are the Israelites who are to be given wholly to me. I have taken them as my own in place of the firstborn, the first male offspring from every Israelite woman. Every firstborn male in Israel, whether man or animal, is mine. When I struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, I set them apart far myself. And I have taken the Levites in place of all the firstborn sons in Israel. Of all the Israelites, I have given the Levites as gifts to Aaron and his sons to do the work at the Tent of Meeting on behalf of the Israelites and to make atonement for them so that no plague will strike the Israelites when they go near the sanctuary.

Notice that in the first passage quoted above God speaks of having women rule over his people in terms of judgement and disaster. Now God would certainly not say such things if he did not mean them. To say otherwise is to call into question the clarity of Scripture and the truthfulness of God. To say that this is just a judgement that would merely be perceived as bad by the people of that society, is to do the same. When God metes out his judgements he does not merely do something the people perceive as a judgement or a disaster. His judgements and the disasters that he brings are real in every sense. We also note that this judgement is not dealing with the family or the church per se, but with Israelite society as a whole.

In the second passage we see God’s restrictions regarding the Old Testament ministry. Of all the Israelites, it was the firstborn sons who were chosen as belonging to God. Also notice that the priesthood was not given to women, but instead to “Aaron and his sons.” So here we have a descriptive passage regarding male and female roles in the church. And so that no one misunderstands what is being said by those who object to the document Scriptural Principles, let me quote the author of Passages, in the April-June, 1992 edition of University Lutheran Chapel Update:

I hope now you can see why I question aspects of “Scriptural Principles”—and the pages of Update are open to responses to these concerns! The issues are just too important, as they touch on the unity and clarity of the Scriptures and the potential ministry of more than half our church’s members—ministry that Joel and Peter affirm is open to women.24

One has to wonder just what the intent of this statement is since the author of Passages does not make himself clear. Taken at face value there can be no doubt from this statement that the “ministry” referred to here is the pastoral ministry. The teaching ministry has been and always will be open to women; the pastoral ministry has not. Even if the statement were to be referring to such positions as holding offices on church council, to then claim that the pastoral office was excluded would be an artificial division. If either of these are the meaning of the author of Passages then his goal must be the establishment of a female clergy. His citing Joel and Peter would seem to indicate this as his intent since the reference points to women “prophesying,” and yet no where does he specifically exclude the type of prophesying peculiar to the pastoral ministry. This understanding would also be supported by the fact that such positions are the only ones that are universally restricted to men in the WELS. On the other hand, there is the possibility that the author of this statement is referring to the few isolated cases where women are not allowed to direct choirs or serve on committees. If that is the case then he is not stating fact in this statement, but rather is setting up a straw-man and fighting against a caricature, since it is clear that such activities of service are not generally withheld from “half our church’s members.”

24 Diener, We Simply Must Be Sure, p. 3. Emphasis mine.
Assumptions Based on These Principles

As we now go on to deal with the passages that have been called into question it would be good for us to review the basic translational assumptions that will be used in dealing with the meaning of ἀνήρ and γυνή in these passages.

If ἀνήρ and γυνή are to be translated “husband” and “wife”:

There **must** be other words in the passage that directly add the concept of marital status to the basic meanings “man” and “woman.”

- or -

If there are not words that directly modify ἀνήρ and γυνή to add the concept of marital status, there **must** be other words or phrases that indirectly add this to their meanings.

- or -

If there are no direct or indirect modifiers, there **must** be overwhelming contextual evidence in the immediate area to add the dimension of marital status to ἀνήρ and γυνή. The only contextual evidence that fits this description is the discussion of either the family in general or marriage specifically.

If none of these conditions is met, then it is a twisting of Scripture to add anything, including the idea of marital status, to the simple meaning of ἀνήρ and γυνή.25

With these assumptions in mind, let us then move on to a discussion of the passages called into question. Please keep in mind, however, that what follows will not be a detailed exegesis of the passages in question. Such a treatment would be far too lengthy, not to mention outside the scope of this paper. What follows, therefore, will be focused on what the proper translation for each occurrence of ἀνήρ and γυνή ought to be. This, of necessity must also include some exegesis, but not of the scope that these passages deserve. If you are interested in a very fine group of exegetical studies on these passages one is available from the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Book Store entitled, *The Role of Man and Woman in God’s Order of Creation*.

II. THE PASSAGES IN QUESTION

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

2 Επαινῶ δὲ ὑμᾶς ὅτι πάντα μου μέμνησθε καί, καθὼς παρέδωκα ὑμῖν, τὰς παραδόσεις κατέχετε.

2 I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the teachings, just as I passed them onto you.

It is good for us to realize the importance of the term παραδόσεις here. In its strictest sense παράδοσις refers to that which is passed down. While it is sometimes used negatively to refer to the traditions of the Pharisees, that, however, cannot be the sense here. Here this term must refer to the teachings that were passed down from Paul

25 Some may criticize not including the article in this discussion, since in some cases the article does have an impact, either because it is specifically referring back to another occurrence of the noun, or because it carries with it an idea of possession. There are two reasons a discussion of the article has not been included. First of all, while the article is sometimes used in a possessive sense and is regularly used to specify a previous reference, these designations are made more or less on the basis of the translator’s view of the text, and thus can be argued since they are often not based on objective evidence. Also when the article is used in a possessive sense, this is always in a context where one of the principles mentioned above has already been satisfied. The second reason the article has been left out of this discussion is based on the fact that there is no evidence to suggest that the Greek, either in the LXX or the New Testament, makes a distinction with regard to marital status on the basis of whether the words are articularized or not.
to the Corinthians. There is no sense of “tradition” in this. Rather Paul is pointing to the word of God which he had taught in Corinth. The point is that what Paul taught in Corinth, and what follows is God’s holy, immutable will for all people of all time, not just some “tradition.”

Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Here, at the very beginning of this section, Paul treats the overriding principle that will govern everything that follows. If we understand this correctly, we cannot misunderstand what follows. If, however, we miss his point here, we cannot properly understand the rest of his argument. Thus this verse is vital to the translation of ἄνήρ and γυνή in this section.

Paul begins by saying that Christ is the head of every ἄνήρ. (The NIV translates this passage poorly since the article on Χριστός designates him as the subject not the predicate). There are no direct modifiers to alter the meaning of ἄνήρ, there are no indirect modifiers that would give it an idea of marital status, and there is no contextual evidence whatsoever, either before or after this verse, that would make us think that Paul is speaking in any terms other than that of a human male. In fact, the one word that does directly modify ἄνήρ, παντὸς, leads us in the opposite direction. Furthermore, when we look at the context in verses 8, 12, and 14 of this chapter, we find that the context is very clearly speaking not of “husbands” but of male human beings. Paul is speaking about every male, not just the married ones but the unmarried as well: “Christ is the head of every man.”

He then goes on to expand this statement and says κεφαλὴ δὲ γυναικὸς ὁ ἄνήρ. The δὲ here indicates that Paul is continuing his point with a coordinating clause. In this phrase Paul does not use πᾶς, but it certainly must be inferred from the previous statement. The continuation indicated by δὲ assures us of that. The lack of an article on γυναικὸς indicates that it is either indefinite, or it draws attention to the specific qualities of a female. In either case the lack of an article gives no evidence that the women spoken of here are only wives. Furthermore, taking γυνη as “wives” militates against the πᾶς that must be understood here. Why would Paul talk about the head of every man, single or married, and then speak only about the head of married women? Is it his intention, is it the Holy Spirit’s intention, to leave out an entire class of people? Since there are no direct or indirect modifiers attached to γυνη that add the idea of marital status to the word, and since the context says nothing at all about marriage, Paul is not speaking here only of wives. That fact then gives us a clearer understanding of how to handle the article on ἄνηρ. Since Paul is not speaking only about wives, it would be illegitimate for us to translate the article on ἄνηρ with possessive force, which would make the translation read, “and the head of

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26 One of the more disturbing aspects of what was written in Heirs is the seeming tendency to embrace the Historical-Critical attitude toward Scripture. The authors of that paper effectively say that since Ephesians appears to have been a circular letter it is more likely to “express general principles that deserve wide application.” They go on to state that letters like Timothy (written to one man) or Corinthians (written to one congregation) are more likely to “apply such general principles to a particular time, place, and situation.” The effect is that we can largely ignore what is said in these letters since they weren’t written to or for us.

27 The NIV would have done better to translate γυνη without the definite article here, since it does not occur in the Greek.

28 Kuske, Exegesis of 1 Corinthians 11:3-16, p. 25.
every woman is her husband.” Instead, the article designates ἀνήρ as the subject of its clause, just as the article on Χριστός does in the first clause. David Kuske says the same thing in his exegesis of this passage:

The translation “her husband” is precluded for four reasons, therefore: 1) The usage in this triad of clauses indicates that the article here is used to designate the subject over against the predicate nominative; 2) The development of this whole section, especially verses 8, 12, and 14, shows the vocable meaning of ἀνήρ in this context to be “male human being”; 3) While on occasion some Hellenistic Greek writers did use the article with the subject to designate a connection with another noun in the sentence, this usage is normally limited to the object in a sentence to designate a connection of the object with the subject (Moulton, III, p 173); and 4) A switch in the meaning of ἀνήρ from “man” in the first clause to “husband” in the second clause which by construction (cf. δὲ) is a parallel would be highly unusual.²⁹

Paul concludes his statement on headship by saying “and the head of Christ is God.”³⁰ It would also be good for us to remember that the headship of man as stated in this passage is always to be viewed in the light of the headship of Christ over men and the headship of God over Christ. These must be the examples men are to follow in the exercise of their headship.

4πᾶς ἀνὴρ προσευχόμενος ἢ προφητεύων κατὰ κεφαλῆς ἔχων καταισχύνει τὴν κεφαλὴν αὐτοῦ. 5πᾶσα δὲ γυνὴ προσευχομένη ἢ προφητεύουσα ἀκατακαλύπτω τῇ κεφαλῇ καταισχύνει τὴν κεφαλὴν αὐτῆς· ἐν γάρ ἐστιν καὶ τὸ αὐτὸ τῇ ἑυρωμένῃ. 6εἰ γὰρ οὐ κατακαλύπτεται γυνὴ, καὶ κειράσθω· εἰ δὲ αἰσχρὸν γυναικὶ τὸ κείρασθαι ἢ ξυρᾶσθαι, κατακαλυπτέωθω. ⁴Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. ⁵And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is just as though her head were shaved. ⁶If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off; and if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should cover her head.

Paul now moves from the overriding principle to the specific applications the Corinthians should draw from it. The application of this principle strikes a chord in the customs of Corinth in that day. In Corinth the wearing of a head covering said something about headship and submission in the relationship between the sexes. Paul here is telling the Corinthians that they ought not disregard this custom in Corinth and thus give others the wrong impression or even cause them to fall into sin.

With regard to this custom Tertullian writes,

As, then, in the masculine sex, under the name of “man” even the youth is forbidden to be veiled, so, too, in the feminine, under the name of “woman” even the virgin is bidden to be veiled. Equally in each sex let the younger follow the discipline of the elder …. Wear the full garb of woman to preserve the standing of virgin.³¹

²⁹ Kuske, *Exegesis of 1 Corinthians 11:3-16*, p. 25.
³⁰ For a brief discussion on the force of κεφαλή, see Kuske’s paper noted in footnote 4.
According to Tertullian, this custom applied not only to married men and women, but to males and females in general. Again this objective evidence indicates that Paul in speaking to the Corinthians is speaking of male and female not of husbands and wives.

Furthermore, since there still is clearly no evidence whatsoever that ἄνήρ and γυνὴ ought to be translated with any indication toward marital status, it becomes clear that Paul cannot be speaking of husbands and wives. There are no direct modifiers to indicate marital status, no indirect modifiers to move the translator in that direction and a context that clearly militates against (vv. 8, 12, 14) understanding these occurrences in any way other than as “male human beings” and “female human beings.” Furthermore, if Paul is speaking of “husbands” and “wives” here, how does what he says make any sense at all? In v. 10 Paul himself indicates that wearing a head covering is a “sign of authority.” Does Paul mean to say that unmarried men, (like himself), ought to have a sign of authority on their heads? Is he saying that unmarried women ought not to have a sign of authority on their heads? At best, a translation of this sort would lead to confusion since it would make the wearing of a head covering merely a designation of marital status, which Tertullian makes clear it was not, rather than one of authority, which again Paul himself calls this head covering in v. 10. The only possible reason to translate any of the occurrences of ἄνήρ or γυνὴ in this section as “husband” and “wife” do not come from the text, but from the bias of the translator.

7Ἀνὴρ μὲν γὰρ οὐκ ὀφείλει κατακαλύπτεσθαι τὴν κεφαλὴν εἰκὼν καὶ δόξα θεοῦ· ἡ γυνὴ δὲ δόξα ἀνδρός ἐστιν.

7A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.

The causal γὰρ indicates that Paul is now explaining why this custom is to be observed by the men and women of Corinth. Again in this verse there is a total lack of any cogent reasons for translating ἄνήρ and γυνὴ here with any reference to marital status. In fact, the proof Paul cites shows that they do not refer to the marriage relationship. If these occurrences refer to husbands and wives how would what follows make any sense at all? Normally we might consider a wife to be the glory of her husband for several reasons. Perhaps she would be his glory by her having agreed to marry him. Perhaps she would be his glory by bearing him children. Perhaps she would be his glory by being the type of wife described in Proverbs 31. And yet none of these is cited by Paul as the proof that she is his glory. Instead his proof rests firmly on an argument that can only be applied to men and women in general, not to husbands and wives specifically.

8οὐ γὰρ ἐστιν ἄνηρ ἐκ γυναικὸς ἀλλὰ γυνὴ ἐξ ἀνδρός·

8For man did not come from woman, but woman from man;

Notice carefully the γὰρ. Paul is proving from Scripture that woman is the glory of man. The creation account says that woman was made from man, not the other way around. So how does that make this statement so compelling with regard to the translation of ἄνηρ and γυνὴ? If one tries to substitute “husband” and “wife” here for “man” and “woman” the statement becomes absurd: “For husband did not come from wife, but wife from husband.” This certainly cannot be said to be generally true, neither does it work in the specific with Adam and Eve, because at this point in creation Adam and Eve were not yet married. On the other hand it is very accurate to say that woman came from man, since Adam and Eve served as representatives for the entire human race. Furthermore, the context, especially in v. 12, has an impact here.

Before going to v. 9, we should again take up the meaning of ἄνηρ and γυνὴ. Is it “husband-wife” or “man-woman”? Verse 12 answers the question for us when the very same thought presented
here in v. 9 is called to mind again by the particle ὡσπερ, and then this truth about the origin of woman from man (v. 8 and v. 12a) is compared to another truth by οὕτως (v. 12b). In 12b the meaning cannot be any other than “man-woman.” This in turn dictates the meaning of v. 12a and thus in turn of v. 8.  

9 καὶ γὰρ οὐκ ἐκτίσθη ἄνήρ διὰ τὴν γυναῖκα ἀλλὰ γυνὴ διὰ τὸν ἄνδρα.

Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

Here Paul adds a second proof to the first, as indicated by the καὶ γὰρ. Again there is no modifier to alter the meaning of ἄνήρ or γυνή. Again the context runs to affirming that these occurrences refer to male and female as opposed to husband and wife. And if these proofs do not refer specifically and solely to the marriage relationship, then neither can any of the other occurrences in this section of Scripture. Do those who would like to restrict this section of Scripture to the realm of marriage really intend to say that the position of husband carries with it no obligations toward the wife? That would be the meaning if you were to translate these occurrences with the words “husband” and “wife”: “neither was husband created for wife, but wife for husband.” If this were to be the correct translation the reference to “husband” and “wife” could mean nothing other than the position of “husband” and the position of “wife.” Thus this statement would contradict the clear teaching of Scripture in Ephesians 5 and elsewhere. There can be no doubt, ἄνήρ and γυνή here must be translated “man” and “woman,” and thus everything that is proven by this statement, must also refer to men and women, and so on down the line.

The authors of Heirs restrict these verses solely to the marriage relationship: “St. Paul refers to God’s purpose in creation (1 Corinthians 11:8-9) which was clearly marriage (Genesis 2:18) and then stresses the interdependence of Christian husbands and wives. (1 Corinthians 11:11-12).” And yet, as we have seen, such is impossible if we are to retain the unity of Scripture.

10 διὰ τοῦτο ὅσελει ἡ γυνὴ ἐξουσίαν ἐχειν ἐπὶ τῆς κεφαλῆς διὰ τοὺς ἄγγελους. 11 πλὴν οὔτε γυνὴ χωρὶς ἄνδρος οὔτε ἄνήρ χωρὶς γυναικὸς ἐν κυρίῳ·

10: For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head. 11: In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.

In these verses again we find a lack of any modifiers whatsoever to shift the translation of ἄνήρ and γυνὴ into the realm of marriage, and this doesn’t even take into consideration the surrounding and overwhelming contextual evidence that forces the occurrences here to be translated “man” and “woman.” Still there are those who claim that these verses, especially 11, apply exclusively to husbands and wives. When we look at v. 12, however, it becomes impossible to understand these references as dealing with the marriage relationship. Instead, Paul now returns to v. 7b to complete his thought there regarding the obligation that woman in general has toward man: she ought to have a sign of authority on her head. Then, to make sure that men do not abuse this relationship, Paul immediately speaks of the interdependence between men and women. This interdependence cannot refer to the interdependence of husbands and wives as the authors of Heirs state above, for reasons that Paul makes clear in v. 12. Rather, Paul’s point here is to emphasize the loving concern with which Christian men will treat all women. They will not disrespect them, but instead will treat them as the wonderful gift of God that they are.

32 Kuske, Exegesis of 1 Corinthians 11:3-16, p. 29.
33 Stadler, Albrecht, & Johnson, Heirs, p. 18.
12 ὡσπερ γὰρ ἡ γυνὴ ἐκ τοῦ ἀνδρός, οὕτως καὶ ὁ ἄνδρας ἐκ τῆς γυναικός· τὰ δὲ πάντα ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ.

For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.

It is extremely important to note the γὰρ here. It makes it clear that what Paul is about to say is proof for the preceding statements in v. 8 and v. 11, and thus for the rest of his argument. It is just as impossible to translate any of the occurrences here “husband” and “wife,” as it is to say that the husband is born of the wife. It would be absurd to think that this verse is referring to the marriage relationship, and yet this verse is Paul’s explanation of how man and woman are interdependent. The ὡσπερ here clearly refers back to v. 8 and Paul’s assertion there that woman came from man, and then he adds the statement that in the exact same way (οὕτως), man is born of woman. If it impossible for husbands in general to be born of their wives, then it is equally impossible for the first part of this verse to be taken as referring to the marriage relationship, and if it is impossible for the first part of this verse to be taken as referring to marriage, then v. 8 cannot be referring to marriage, and neither can anything that v. 8 is used to prove. Thus the idea that this section of Scripture refers only to the roles of males and females within marriage, is false.

13 'Εν ύμῖν αὐτοῖς κρίνατε· πρέπον ἐστὶν γυναῖκα ἀκατακάλυπτον τῷ θεῷ προσεύχεσθαι; 14 οὐδὲ ἡ φύσις αὐτῆ διδάσκει ὑμᾶς ὅτι ἂν ὁ ἄνδρας ἐὰν κομᾷ, ἕτερα ἐστὶν, 15 γυνὴ δὲ ἐὰν κομᾷ, δόξα αὐτῇ ἐστιν. 16 Εἰ δὲ τις δοκεῖ ἂν τις ἄνδρας ἀτιμίας, ἡμῖν ταύτην συνήθειαν όὐκ ἔχομεν ὡς αἱ ἐκκλησίαι τοῦ θεοῦ.

13 Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? 14 Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, 15 but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering. 16 If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice—not do the churches of God.

Verses 13-16 again contain no valid arguments for translating ἄνδρας and γυνὴ with anything other than “man” and “woman.” There are no direct modifiers, there are no indirect modifiers, and the context, as we have seen, clearly prohibits any other translation.

Thus it is impossible to view any portion of this entire section of Scripture as referring to anything other than the relationship of men and women in general. While there are definitely applications to marriage that can and must be made on the basis of the principle stated here, in the final analysis 1 Corinthians 11:2-16 refers to the role relationship between men and women in general and not to the role relationship in marriage. This having been proven, the teachings presented in Scriptural Principles must remain intact. Nevertheless, it would not do for us to allow the other passages teaching this truth to remain in question and so we must look at them as well.

1 Corinthians 14:34-35

With regard to the statements Paul makes in 1 Corinthians 14:34-35, it would be of benefit if we were to look more closely at the context that precedes these verses. In v. 26 Paul writes, “What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.” He here makes it very clear that

34 Unfortunately, the NIV really massacred this translation: verse 16 should read “we have no such practice (or custom)—nor do the churches of God.”
he is speaking of a worship service, and that context continues through verses 34 and 35 and on to the end of the chapter. Except in these two verses chapter 14 makes no mention at all of husbands and wives, or even of men and women. There is no discussion of the family, and no mention of marriage. Thus the context, by itself, would suggest that occurrences of ἀνήρ and γυνή in these two verses ought to be translated “man” and “woman.” But we do have other factors to take into consideration.

34 αἱ γυναῖκες ἐν ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις σιγάτωσαν· οὐ γὰρ ἐπιτρέπεται αὐταῖς λαλεῖν, ἀλλὰ ὑποτασσέσθωσαν, καθὼς καὶ ὁ νόμος λέγει.

women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says.

In this verse Paul uses no modifiers, either direct or indirect, to add the idea of marital status to ἀνήρ and γυνή. Here he places the application before the principle, unlike in chapter 11. The application is that women are to remain silent. They are not allowed to even utter a sound (λαλεῖν). The principle is that they are to be in submission “as the Law says.”

The silence that Paul speaks of here, however, is not without qualifications. It is clear from other portions of Scripture that women did speak in the church service. The kind of speaking that Paul is referring to, then, must be of such a kind that it would violate the principle of submission that Paul refers to. In his exegesis of these verses Dr. Becker writes:

If a man is standing to deliver a prophecy, a revelation, and a woman would insist that she has received a revelation which she wanted to proclaim, the rule that Paul had just laid down would mean that her rising to speak would in effect be a command to the man who was speaking to be silent (σιγάτω). That sort of speaking would very clearly conflict with the subordinate position of women in the order of creation, which calls upon them to be in subjection.  

and

If a woman in that situation were to pronounce a judgement on a male prophet, this again would put her in a position where she would violate the legal principle, “Let them be in subjection.” In this activity of judging, therefore, the women were also not to participate by speaking but “to keep silence in the churches.”

There is also another type of speaking that Paul is obviously restricting in v. 35 where he says, “if they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own men at home.” Dr. Becker writes:

In contrast to the two previous examples, it is a little more difficult to see how the desire to learn could violate the principle that women should be subject to men. However, every teacher knows that there is a way of questioning that can easily give evidence of a rebellious and undisciplined attitude. The questioning can easily become judgmental and this application of the basic principle might be viewed as an application to an aspect of the activity which Paul had called for when he said, “Let the others judge.”

35 Becker, An Exegetical Study of 1 Corinthians 14:33b-36, p. 36
All of this has a specific bearing upon the translation of \( \gammaυν\) in v. 34 and \( \alphaν\) in v. 35.

35 ει δε τι μαθειν θελουσιν, εν οικω τους ιδιους άνδρας επερωτατωσαν. αισχρον γαρ έστιν γυναικι λαλειν εν έκκλησια.

If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.

You will note that in this passage there is a direct modifier attached to \( \alphaν\). Paul says: τους ιδιους άνδρας. Here it would seem that Paul is restricting these verses to wives since the \( \gammaυν\) in v. 34 is the antecedent to \( \text{iδιους}\). That interpretation, however, cannot be. If Paul were telling wives alone to remain silent in church because these things violated the Scriptural principle of a wife’s submission to her husband, then his instruction to them to ask their husbands at home would be granting them permission to violate that same Scriptural principle as long as it was done at home. That certainly cannot be the case. Another option would be that Paul intended this principle to apply only in church and not anywhere else, but in that case he would have been setting up a new ceremonial law which he assures us elsewhere we are no longer subject to.

The only possible explanation is that Paul is instructing females in the church to remain in submission, and not to challenge the general authority that God has given men over women. Instead, if their desire is indeed to learn, they may ask their own men at home, where they would not be challenging the authority of any man, but instead would be affirming not only the authority of the men in church but also of their own men in the home.

You may also note that in the preceding, \( \alphaν\) has been translated “men” rather than “husbands,” despite the fact that there is a direct modifier attached to it. This certainly is a valid translation, especially given the fact that the rest of the occurrences in this context have nothing to do with marriage. As was stated in the discussion on principle number three, even a direct modifier may not force a translation that includes the idea of marital status, since that would make it impossible to speak of a woman’s father, brother, or son as her man, which in the Greek way of thinking would be possible for the unmarried or widowed woman.

As we have already noted, the translation “their own husbands,” may be too restrictive, even though the possessive pronoun would be an argument in favor of that translation. While it may be preferable to translate instead, “their own men,” the decision on that point is not crucial, for there are, as we have seen, other alternatives available for the unmarried if Paul in this case had in mind only those women who had living husbands.

No matter how we handle \( \alphaν\) here, the point is made that this passage is most definitely not speaking of the marriage relationship and the roles of husbands and wives, but, in fact, the roles of men and women in general.

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39 Personally I am divided as to how \( \alphaν\) ought to be handled here. On the one hand I like the translation “husbands,” simply because every other occurrence of \( \alphaν\) and \( \gammaυν\) that is modified in this way, in both the LXX and the New Testament, designates marital status. On the other hand, I understand that with language there are no hard and fast rules that do not also have exceptions to them. I also respect Dr. Becker and his opinion. The result is that if I were pressed to make a decision, I would translate \( \alphaν\) as “husbands” here. That, however, does not change anything said in the main body of this paper.
As we begin looking at these verses from 1 Timothy 2, we note that Paul begins this chapter with instructions on prayer. Those instructions continue through v. 8. Now there are some who would contend that these instructions restrict the discussion to that which takes place in the church service, but there really is no strong evidence for that here as there was in 1 Corinthians 14. We are to pray continually, so Paul’s instructions apply just as well outside the church service as inside. That Paul is not speaking solely of the church service also becomes evident in v. 9 where he instructs women to dress modestly. Again this instruction applies equally as well outside the church service as inside. In the end, however, it really doesn’t matter whether Paul is speaking of the church service or not. There are no ceremonial laws in the New Testament. What is good, right and proper for a Christian within the worship service is good, right and proper for him outside it as well.

When we look at this context we also note the complete lack of any evidence that would lead us to designate the occurrences of ἀνήρ and γυνή as referring to “husbands” and “wives.” Again, there is no discussion of marriage, no discussion of the family, in fact, no occurrence of ἀνήρ or γυνή in the verses that precede v. 8.

8 βούλομαι οὖν προσεύχεσθαι τοὺς ἄνδρας ἐν παντὶ τόπῳ ἐπαίροντας ὁσίους χεῖρας χωρὶς ὀργῆς καὶ διαλογισμοῦ.
9 Ὡσαύτως καὶ γυναῖκας ἐν καταστολῇ κοσμίῳ μετὰ αἰδοῦς καὶ σωφροσύνης κοσμεῖν, μὴ ἐν πλέγμασιν καὶ χρυσίῳ ἢ μαργαρίταις ἢ ἱματισμῶ πολυτελεῖ,
10 ἀλλ’ ὃ πρέπει γυναιξὶν ἐπαγγελλομέναι θεσσέβειαν, δι’ ἔργων ἀγαθῶν.

8 I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.
9 I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, 10 but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

The ωσαύτως at the beginning of this verse indicates that the following command for women is parallel to the previous command to men. Thus if the men mentioned in v. 8 are men in general, not just husbands then the women mentioned here are women in general, not just not wives. That would only make sense, since every Christian woman ought to “dress modestly, with decency and propriety.” Again there are no direct or indirect modifiers to suggest a translation of wife, and we see that Paul is clearly speaking to all women. Thus it is clear that these verses refer to men and women in general, not just husbands and wives.

That same ωσαύτως also indicates that Paul does not have in mind the worship service alone, but general conduct in mind in both verses 8 and 9. If the command for men to pray in v. 8 refers to the worship service alone, then verses 9 and 10 “likewise” apply only to the worship service. But it is clear that decent and modest dress are not just things for church but are attitudes that go beyond the narrow scope of a church service and
into the everyday life of a Christian woman. The fact that Paul mentions worshipping God (θεσσέβειαν) in connection with women, indicates that worship in the church service is most definitely included in his instructions, but it does not preclude that such instruction also apply to the life of worship outside the church service. In fact, common sense would tell us that even if these verses do apply specifically to the worship service, a Christian woman’s understanding of the male-female relationship will also be a part of her daily life, just as her attitude about modesty is. Since there are no ceremonial laws in the New Testament, the moral law that Paul speaks of here holds true in all aspects of life, regardless of how wide or narrow this particular application is.  

11 Γυνὴ ἐν ἡσυχίᾳ μανθανέτω ἐν πάσῃ ύποταγῇ. 11A woman should learn in quietness and full submission.

Now Paul moves on to the instructions that we are most concerned with. Again there is no internal evidence whatsoever that we should understand this as referring to wives and not to all women. No direct modifiers are present to give γυνὴ the meaning “wife.” No indirect modifiers alter its meaning either. The context is speaking about men and women in general, not about husbands and wives. Nothing at all, except a translator’s bias, would even suggest that we take γυνὴ as referring to wives here. We also take into consideration that what Paul says here is nearly identical to his argument in 1 Corinthians 14 which, as we have seen, refers to women and not to wives.

12 διδάσκειν δὲ γυναικὶ οὐκ ἐπιτρέπω οὐδὲ αὐθεντεῖν ἄνδρός, ἀλλ’ εἶναι ἐν ἡσυχίᾳ. 12I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent.

The meaning of γυνὴ in this context has already been established in our discussion of the preceding verses, and there is nothing here that compels us to understand this occurrence any differently. Again no direct or indirect modifiers are present to alter that meaning already established. The same holds true for the occurrence of ἄνὴρ here. Paul is clearly making a general statement that applies to all women with regard to all men. That fact becomes even more clear when we look at Paul’s reasoning as found in the following verses.

13 Ἀδὰμ γὰρ πρῶτος ἐπλάσθη, εἶτα Εὐα. 14 καὶ Ἀδὰμ οὐκ ἡπατήθη, ἡ δὲ γυνὴ ἐξαπατηθεῖσα ἐν παραβάσει γέγονεν. 13For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14And Adam was not the one deceived, it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.

Here we have the first of two proofs from Paul (γὰρ), as to why women are not allowed to have authority over a man. Those who claim that this passage deals exclusively with husbands and wives claim that mentioning Adam and Eve here is contextual evidence for translating the previous occurrences of ἄνὴρ and γυνὴ as “husband” and “wife.” They claim that since God’s purpose in creating them was for marriage any reference to them must be within the context of marriage. The author of *Passages* states:

40 The questions raised by the author of *Passages* and those of *Heirs* indicate that at best they see the principles given us by Paul to apply to the church alone and not to society. Because of that tendency the question of whether this passage refers to the church service has been dealt with briefly here.
Because of Paul’s stress on the singular “woman,” and the reference to the intimate relationship between Adam and Eve—a married couple—I take the expression here also to refer to a married woman. Admittedly, here is not as strong a case as in others, and there can be disagreements among people who regard the Bible as God’s holy Word.41

The authors of *Heirs* state:

We do not believe that 1 Timothy 2:12 prohibits all women from any exercise of authority over men because St. Paul refers to the sin of Adam and Eve (1 Timothy 2:14) who are identified as husband and wife in Genesis 3:17. The reference to childbirth (1 Timothy 2:15) also indicates that he is discussing the relationships between husbands and wives.42

One is at a loss, however, to see the logical connection Adam and Eve’s creation and the fall into sin (v. 14), have with marriage. Would these men have us believe that whenever Adam and Eve are spoken of in the same context, that context must then be referring to marriage? That is the entire basis of their argument here. Would they claim that since David and Bathsheba were married that whenever they are mentioned together in the same context that the author must be speaking of marriage? If not there, then why should they do it here? One fails to see the difference between these two married couples. Also consider that Adam and Eve were not considered married until God joined them together. If God joined them together, it is only logical to understand that they were separate before this point, and so the conclusion that when Paul refers to them he refers to the marriage relationship, is flawed.

Paul’s argument is much more logical. In referring to Adam and Eve, he highlights only the time and circumstances of their creation, not the marriage relationship. His argument should sound very familiar; Paul also used it in 1 Corinthians 11:8,9. To claim that this verse speaks of marriage is anachronistic since at the time of Adam’s creation he was not married, nor were Adam and Eve married at the time of Eve’s creation. Certainly this was one of the purposes God had in creating them, but as of the time of creation that purpose had not been fulfilled. Paul’s point here, his proof for the fact that a woman ought not have authority over a man, is that God set up a very definite order in creation. And that order was not just a matter of time, but was also a matter of position. Man was given the leadership role and woman was given a role of submissiveness (not inferiority).

For this reason Paul’s jump to the fall into sin is supremely logical. For when Adam and Eve fell into sin, they both stepped out of their God-assigned roles. The woman took the leadership position and the man submitted to that leadership. And his point is that it is not good for either man or woman when either of them steps outside of the roles that God gave them in the creation. Note well that Paul places the blame for the fall into sin on Adam, not Eve, in Romans 5 where he says,

Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was

Adam was held responsible for the fall into sin, not simply because he was the head of the household, but because he was the male, created first. He was held responsible for Eve’s actions just as surely as any leader is held responsible for the misdeeds of his followers. Thus the total lack of any reference to marriage is made clear and we see that these verses must refer to men and women in general, and not merely to the marriage relationship.

15 δὲ σωθήσεται διὰ τῆς τεκνογονίας, ἐὰν μείνωσιν ἐν πίστει καὶ ἀγάπῃ καὶ ἀγιασμῷ με τὰ σωφροσύνης.

But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

Finally in v. 15 Paul concludes his argument. Neither ἄνηρ nor γυνή occur here, so the subject of the main verb of v. 15 is understood from the preceding. If the preceding refers to women in general, as we have proven it does, then so must the subject of this verb. The reference to childbearing (τεκνογονίας), however, seems to suggest a marriage relationship as the authors of Passages and Heirs state. That, however, does not need to be the case. Professor Kuske in his paper Exegesis of 1 Timothy 2:11-15 says,

Childbearing, more than any other characteristic of woman, sets her apart from man. This is the unique task for which God created her. If a woman recognizes this and treasures children as the gift from God that they are, and if she willingly and gladly serves God in this unique function, even though it be with pain, in no clearer way can she show her submission to God’s will in the matter of her role as woman. This is apparently what the article with τεκνογονίας is intended to emphasize, namely, the well-known kind of childbearing God spoke to Eve as the representative of her class. Or else the article may just mean “her” childbearing, that is, the way each woman conducts herself in this activity.43

Thus Paul wraps up his argument and everything fits neatly together. That fact, and the fact that nowhere do the grammar, words or context ever add the idea of marriage or family to ἄνηρ or γυνή, make it clear that Paul’s comments here refer to men and women and their relationship in general, not merely to husbands and wives.

Conclusion

From the foregoing it should be obvious that the attempts on the part of some to relegate the Biblical teaching on the role relationships between men and women, to a mere discussion of the relationship between husbands and wives, are totally devoid of any Scriptural, syntactical or grammatical support. In none of these passages is there any valid reason for translating ἄνηρ or γυνὴ in any other way than their basic, native sense. In fact, as has been stated earlier, there is absolutely no need to ever translate either of these words so that they indicate marital status. Marital status is consistently made clear in other words used by the writer, and those words are not found in the questioned passages. Scriptural Principles of Man and Woman Roles is based on the only interpretation that is possible using objective hermeneutical principles. As Lutherans, we believe that there is only one, simple, literal sense intended by the inspired writers in all of Scripture, and especially in the sedes doctrinae.44 In Luther’s day those who opposed the Bible’s teaching about the Lord’s Supper had to appeal to

43 Kuske, Exegesis of 1 Timothy 2:11-15, p. 51.
44 See Formula of Concord, Thorough Declaration, VII, 45-47, Triglot pp. 987-989.
complex, subjective methods of interpretation to justify their teaching that “is” does not mean “is.” Pure doctrine came from the plain simple sense of the inspired words of Scripture—that “is” means what it plainly and simply says. The doctrine expounded in *Scriptural Principles* is similar. It relies on the plain, simple sense of ἄνήρ and γυνή.

It would not be right, however, to just leave the issue there. Concerns with this issue are to a large degree a result of sins of commission and omission committed by every man in this world. The primary reason this teaching is so difficult and so unpalatable to the people of today’s world is that we men have used this doctrine as an excuse for treating women poorly, which makes the doctrine appear to condone such sins. We are responsible because of our cavalier attitude to the needs of women. The problem is not primarily that the women of this world are not following our lead, it is that we are leading poorly at best and pontificating at worst. Perhaps we should remove the plank from our own eye before we condemn the speck of sawdust apparent in the eyes of some women. If we as Christian men would lead in the same manner that Christ himself leads the Church, there would be little difficulty on the part of any Christian with this teaching of Scripture. May the Lord forgive us for our sin in this matter, and may he give us the strength, and the willingness to be the kind of leaders he intended us to be from the beginning of creation.
APPENDIX A

OCCURRENCES OF ἀνήρ AND γυνὴ IN THE LXX
SORTED BY CATEGORY

Passages Where ἀνήρ Must Be Translated “Man/Men”
(LXX)

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45 The division of the passages given in each of the appendices that follow is the result of my personal study of each passage listed. While there may be a few passages where someone might not agree with my assessment, in the end that does not matter since the overwhelming evidence of Scripture is unarguably clear in this matter. I hope that this listing of passages will help you in your personal study of this matter.

46 In passages where a English letter follows, the letter indicates a verse found in the LXX that is not found in the original. In passages where a Greek letter follows, the letter indicates which occurrence of the word is meant.
<p>| GEN 39:2 | NUM 5:12a | DEU 22:5b | JDG 3:17 | JDG 8:22 | JDG 15:15 |
| GEN 43:15 | NUM 5:12b | DEU 22:21 | JDG 3:28 | JDG 8:24 | JDG 15:16 |
| GEN 46:32b | NUM 6:2 | DEU 22:23 | JDG 3:29b | JDG 9:2a | JDG 16:19 |
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Passages Where ἀνήρ Must Be Translated “Husband/Husbands” Because of Direct Modifiers (LXX)

| GEN 16:3 | NUM 30:11 | JDG 14:15 | 2SA 11:26 | PRO 31:28 | JDT 16:24 |
| GEN 29:32 | NUM 30:12 | JDG 19:3 | 2SA 14:5 | PRO 31:31 |
| GEN 29:34 | NUM 30:13a | JDG 20:4b | 2SA 14:7 | GES 1:20 |
| GEN 30:15 | NUM 30:13b | | 2SA 17:3a | EZE 16:32 |
| GEN 30:18 | NUM 30:14a | RTH 1:3 | | EZE 16:45a | SIR 4:10 |
| GEN 30:20 | NUM 30:14b | RTH 1:5 | 2KI 4:1 | EZE 16:45b | SIR 22:4 |
| NUM 30:17 | RTH 1:9 | 2KI 4:9 | | SIR 23:23a |
| | | | 2KI 4:22 | HOS 2:9 | SIR 25:20 |
| | | DEU 24:4 | | | |
| | | DEU 25:5b | ISA 1:18 | | SIR 25:23 |
| NUM 5:13 | DEU 25:7a | ISA 1:22 | EST 1:18 | JOE 1:8 | SIR 26:1 |
| NUM 5:19 | DEU 25:7b | ISA 1:23 | EST 1:20 | | SIR 26:2 |
| NUM 5:20b | DEU 25:11 | ISA 2:19 | | TOB 3:8b | SIR 26:13 |
| NUM 5:27 | DEU 28:56 | ISA 4:19 | | PRO 7:19 | SIR 36:23 |
| NUM 5:29 | 1SA 4:21 | | PRO 12:4a | JDT 8:2 | SIR 40:23 |
| NUM 30:8 | JDG 13:9 | PRO 31:21 | JDT 10:3 | SUS 1:36 | 4MC 18:9 |
Passages Where ἄνηρ Must Be Translated “Husband/Husbands”
Because of Indirect Modifiers
(LXX)

LEV 21:3 RTH 1:11 PRO 30:23 TOB 6:13 TOB 7:11 SIR 25:1
DEU 24:3a RTH 1:12 ISA 54:1 TOB 6:14 SIR 23:22 SIR 42:10
DEU 24:3b RTH 1:13 TOB 3:8a

Passages Where ἄνηρ Must Be Translated “Husband/Husbands”
Because of Context Alone
(LXX)

PRO 12:4b PRO 31:12 SIR 22:5
Passages Where \( \gammaυνη \) Must Be Translated “Woman/Women”

(LXX)

<p>| GEN 2:22 | LEV 26:26 | JDG 13:24 | 2SA 14:9 | EZR 10:3 | ISA 27:11 |
| GEN 2:23 | LEV 26:26 | JDG 14:1 | 2SA 14:12 | EZR 10:10 | ISA 32:9 |
| GEN 3:1 | NUM 5:6 | JDG 14:2a | 2SA 14:13 | EZR 10:11 | ISA 49:15 |
| GEN 3:2 | NUM 5:18a | JDG 14:3a | 2SA 14:17 | EZR 10:14 |
| GEN 3:4 | NUM 5:18b | JDG 14:7 | 2SA 14:18a | EZR 10:17 | JER 3:1b |
| GEN 3:6 | NUM 5:19 | JDG 14:10 | 2SA 14:18b | EZR 10:18 | JER 3:20 |
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| GEN 3:13b | NUM 5:22 | JDG 16:27a | 2SA 15:16 | NEH 8:3 | JER 13:21 |
| GEN 12:14 | NUM 5:27 | JDG 19:27 | 2SA 20:3 | JER 30:16 |
| GEN 14:16 | NUM 5:28 | JDG 20:4 | 2SA 20:16 | EST 1:19 | JER 45:22 |
| GEN 20:3 | NUM 5:31 | JDG 21:11 | 2SA 20:17 | EST 1:20 | JER 48:16 |
| GEN 24:5 | NUM 6:2 | JDG 21:14 | 2SA 20:21 | EST 2:3a | JER 50:6 |
| GEN 24:8 | NUM 21:30 | JDG 21:16b | 2SA 20:22 | EST 2:3b | JER 51:7 |
| GEN 24:39 | NUM 25:8 | | | EST 2:4 | JER 51:15b |
| GEN 24:44 | NUM 25:15 | RTH 1:5 | 1KI 3:16 | EST 2:7 | JER 51:25 |
| GEN 30:13 | NUM 30:4 | RTH 3:8 | 1KI 3:17a | EST 2:8 |
| GEN 31:35 | NUM 31:9 | RTH 3:11 | 1KI 3:17b | EST 2:12 | LAM 2:20 |
| GEN 33:5 | NUM 31:17 | RTH 3:14 | 1KI 3:18 | EST 2:14 | LAM 4:10 |
| GEN 38:20 | NUM 31:18 | RTH 4:5 | 1KI 3:19 | EST 2:15 | LAM 5:11 |
| GEN 38:20 | NUM 31:35 | RTH 4:14 | 1KI 3:22 | EST 4:11 |
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| EXO 2:7 | DEU 2:34 | 1SA 1:15 | 1KI 7:2 | JOB 2:10 | EZE 9:6 |
| EXO 2:9 | DEU 3:6 | 1SA 1:18 | 1KI 11:26 | JOB 11:2 | EZE 16:30 |
| EXO 3:22 | DEU 13:7 | 1SA 1:26 | 1KI 12:24b | JOB 11:12 | EZE 16:34 |
| EXO 11:2 | DEU 17:2 | 1SA 2:20b | 1KI 12:24i | JOB 14:1 | EZE 16:41 |
| EXO 15:20 | DEU 17:5 | 1SA 4:20 | 1KI 12:24n | JOB 15:14 | EZE 18:60 |
| EXO 19:15 | DEU 20:7 | 1SA 15:3 | 1KI 17:9 | JOB 25:4 | EZE 23:2 |
| EXO 21:4b | DEU 20:14 | 1SA 15:33a | 1KI 17:10 | JOB 31:11 | EZE 23:10 |
| EXO 21:22a | DEU 21:11a | 1SA 15:33b | 1KI 17:12 | JOB 31:11 | EZE 23:44 |
| EXO 21:22b | DEU 22:5 | 1SA 18:7 | 1KI 17:15 | PRO 5:3a | EZE 23:48 |
| EXO 21:28 | DEU 22:22b | 1SA 21:5 | 1KI 17:17 | PRO 5:3b | EZE 30:17 |
| EXO 21:29 | DEU 22:22g | 1SA 21:6 | 1KI 17:19 | PRO 6:24 |
| EXO 35:25 | DEU 29:17 | 1SA 27:9 | | PRO 7:5 |
| EXO 35:26 | DEU 31:12 | 1SA 27:11 | 2KI 4:8 | PRO 7:10 | HOS 3:1 |
| EXO 36:6 | JOS 2:1 | 1SA 28:8 | 2KI 4:17 | PRO 11:16a |</p>
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### Passages Where γυνη Must Be Translated “Wife/Wives” Because of Direct Modifiers (LXX)

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| GEN 1:25 | GEN 19:16 | GEN 34:29 | LEV 18:20 | JDG 4:17 | 1SA 25:44 |
| GEN 3:8 | GEN 19:26 | GEN 36:2 | LEV 20:10a | JDG 4:21 | 1SA 27:3a |
| GEN 3:17 | GEN 20:2a | GEN 36:6 | LEV 20:10b | JDG 5:24b | 1SA 27:3b |
| GEN 3:20 | GEN 20:2b | GEN 36:10 | LEV 20:11 | JDG 8:30 | 1SA 30:3 |
| GEN 3:21 | GEN 20:7 | GEN 36:12 | LEV 20:21 | JDG 11:2a | 1SA 30:5 |
| GEN 4:1 | GEN 20:11 | GEN 36:13 | | JDG 13:2 | 1SA 30:18 |
| GEN 4:17 | GEN 20:12 | GEN 36:14 | NUM 5:12 | JDG 13:11a | 1SA 30:22 |
| GEN 4:23 | GEN 20:14 | GEN 36:17 | NUM 5:14a | JDG 13:19 | |
| GEN 7:7a | GEN 24:15 | GEN 38:8 | NUM 14:3 | JDG 13:23 | 2SA 11:3b |
| GEN 7:7b | GEN 24:36 | GEN 38:9 | NUM 16:27 | JDG 14:15 | 2SA 11:11 |
| GEN 7:13a | GEN 24:51 | GEN 38:12 | NUM 26:59 | JDG 14:16 | 2SA 11:26 |
| GEN 7:13b | GEN 24:67 | GEN 38:14 | NUM 30:17 | JDG 14:20 | 2SA 12:8 |
| GEN 8:16a | GEN 25:10 | GEN 39:7 | NUM 32:26 | JDG 15:1a | 2SA 12:9a |
| GEN 8:16b | GEN 25:20 | GEN 39:8 | NUM 36:3a | JDG 15:1b | 2SA 12:10a |
| GEN 8:18a | GEN 25:21a | GEN 39:9 | NUM 36:12 | JDG 15:6 | 2SA 12:11a |
| GEN 11:29b | GEN 26:7a | GEN 41:45 | DEU 3:19 | JDG 21:16a | 2SA 12:15 |
| GEN 11:29g | GEN 26:7b | GEN 46:5 | DEU 5:21 | JDG 21:21 | 2SA 12:24 |
| GEN 12:5  | GEN 26:9 | GEN 46:26 | DEU 21:13 |
| GEN 12:11a| GEN 26:10| GEN 49:31a| DEU 22:19 | RTH 1:1  | 1KI 5:14b|
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| GEN 12:17 | GEN 26:34| DEU 22:24 | RTH 4:10  | 1KI 12:24a|
| GEN 12:18 | GEN 28:6a| EXO 18:2 | DEU 22:29 | RTH 4:11 | 1KI 12:24g|
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| GEN 12:20 | GEN 29:28| EXO 21:5 | DEU 25:5a | 1SA 1:4  | 1KI 19:1 |
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| GEN 16:3b | GEN 31:17| DEU 27:23 | 1SA 14:50 | 1KI 21:3 |
| GEN 17:15 | GEN 31:32| LEV 18:8 | DEU 29:10 | 1SA 19:11| 1KI 21:5 |
| GEN 17:19 | GEN 32:23| LEV 18:11| 1SA 25:3a | 1KI 21:7 |
| GEN 18:9  | GEN 34:4 | LEV 18:14| JOS 1:14  | 1SA 25:3b|
| GEN 18:10 | GEN 34:8 | LEV 18:15| JOS 15:17 | 1SA 25:14| 2KI 4:1  |
### Passages Where γυνή Must Be Translated “Wife/Wives” Because of Indirect Modifiers (LXX)

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1MC 10:54
Passages Where γυνὴ Must Be Translated “Wife/Wives” Because of Context Alone
(LXX)

EXO 4:20  NUM 5:29  1KI 11:4  ECC 9:9  1ES 4:21  GES 6:13a
EXO 18:5  DEU 28:54  EST 6:13  ISA 54:6a  1ES 9:9  GES 6:13b
EXO 21:3a  ISA 1:23  EST 7:8  ISA 54:6b  TOB 10:4  SIR 15:2
EXO 21:30

APPENDIX B
OCCURRENCES OF ἀνήρ AND γυνὴ IN THE NEW TESTAMENT SORTED BY CATEGORY

Passages Where ἀνὴρ Must Be Translated “Man/Men”
(Greek New Testament)

MAT 6:44  LUK 19:7  ACT 5:36  ACT 11:12  ACT 19:37  1CO 11:3
MAT 7:24  LUK 22:63  ACT 6:3  ACT 11:20  ACT 20:30  1CO 11:4
MAT 7:26  LUK 23:50a  ACT 6:5  ACT 11:24  ACT 21:11  1CO 11:7a
MAT 14:21  LUK 24:4  ACT 7:2  ACT 13:7  ACT 21:26  1CO 11:8a
MAT 14:35  LUK 24:19  ACT 7:26  ACT 13:15  ACT 21:28  1CO 11:8b
MAT 15:38  JOH 1:13  ACT 8:2  ACT 13:16  ACT 21:38  1CO 11:9a
MAT 15:38  JOH 6:10  ACT 8:12  ACT 13:26  ACT 22:4  1CO 11:11b
MAT 1:27  LUK 1:10  ACT 9:2  ACT 14:8  ACT 23:1  1CO 11:12a
MAT 1:34  LUK 1:11  ACT 9:7  ACT 14:15  ACT 23:6  1CO 11:14
MAT 5:8  LUK 1:16  ACT 9:12  ACT 15:7  ACT 23:21  1CO 13:11
MAT 5:12  LUK 1:21  ACT 9:13  ACT 15:13  ACT 23:27
MAT 6:8  LUK 2:5  ACT 9:38  ACT 15:22  ACT 23:30  EPH 4:13
MAT 7:20  LUK 2:14  ACT 10:1  ACT 15:25  ACT 24:5
MAT 8:27  LUK 2:22a  ACT 10:5  ACT 16:9  ACT 25:5  1TI 2:8
MAT 8:38  LUK 2:22b  ACT 10:17  ACT 17:5  ACT 25:14  1TI 2:12
MAT 8:41  LUK 2:29  ACT 10:19  ACT 17:12  ACT 25:23
MAT 9:30  LUK 3:2  ACT 10:22  ACT 17:31  ACT 27:10  JAM 1:12
LUK 14:24  LUK 5:14  ACT 19:35  ROM 4:8
LUK 17:12  LUK 5:25  ROM 11:4

47 None of the questioned passages are included in Appendix B.
### Passages Where ἀνήρ Must Be Translated “Husband/Husbands” Because of Direct or Indirect Modifiers

**(Greek New Testament)**

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**Passages Where ἄνηρ Must Be Translated “Husband/Husbands” Because of Context Alone (Greek New Testament)**

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Passages Where γυνή Must Be Translated “Woman/Women”
(Greek New Testament)

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Passages Where γυνή Must Be Translated “Wife/Wives”
Because of Direct or Indirect Modifiers
(Greek New Testament)

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<td>LUK 20:28β</td>
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<td>ACT 5:1</td>
<td>αὐτοῦ</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACT 5:7</td>
<td>αὐτοῦ</td>
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<td>ACT 18:2</td>
<td>αὐτοῦ</td>
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<td>ACT 24:24</td>
<td>ἰδίᾳ</td>
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<td>ROM 7:2</td>
<td>ὑπανάρχος</td>
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<td>1CO 5:1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1CO 7:2</td>
<td>ἐαυτοῦ</td>
<td>ἔχω (ἔχέτω)</td>
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<td>1CO 7:10</td>
<td>γαμέω (γεγαμηκόσιν)</td>
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<td>1CO 7:11</td>
<td>χωρίζω (χωρισθῆναι)</td>
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<td>1CO 7:12</td>
<td>ἀφίημι (ἀφιέναι)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1CO 7:27α</td>
<td>δέω (δέδεσαι)</td>
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<td>1CO 7:29</td>
<td>ἔχω (ἔχοντες)</td>
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<td>1CO 7:33</td>
<td>γαμήσως</td>
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</table>
1CO 7:39 antecedent of αὑτῆς, δέω (δέδεται)

EPH 5:22 antecedent of ἰδίος

EPH 5:28 α ἐαυτῶν

EPH 5:28 β ἐαυτός

EPH 5:31 αὐτός

EPH 5:33 α ἐαυτός

1TI 3:2 μιᾶς γυναικὸς ἄνδρα

1TI 3:12 μιᾶς γυναικὸς ἄνδρες

1TI 5:9 ἐνὸς ἀνδρὸς γυνή

TIT 1:6 μιᾶς γυναικὸς ἄνηρ

1PE 3:1 α antecedent of ἰδίοις

REV 19:7 αὐτός

REV 21:9 τοῦ ἄρνιου

---

Passages Where γυνή Must Be Translated “Wife/Wives” by Context Alone (Greek New Testament)

MAR 12:19a 1CO 7:14a 1PE 5:23
LUK 18:29 1CO 7:14b 1PE 5:24
ACT 5:2 1CO 7:16a 1PE 5:25
1CO 7:3a 1CO 7:16b EPH 5:33b
1CO 7:3b 1CO 7:27b COL 3:18
1CO 7:4a 1CO 7:27g COL 3:19
1CO 7:4b 1CO 9:5 1PE 3:1b
APPENDIX C
STATISTICAL USAGE FIGURES

Figures for the LXX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total occurrences of ἄνὴρ in the LXX</td>
<td>1621</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total where ἄνὴρ is “MAN/MEN”</td>
<td>1501</td>
<td>92.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total where ἄνὴρ is “HUSBAND/HUSBANDS” (Direct modifiers)</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total where ἄνὴρ is “HUSBAND/HUSBANDS” (Indirect modifiers)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total where ἄνὴρ is “HUSBAND/HUSBANDS” (Context alone)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total occurrences of γυνὴ in the LXX</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Total where γυνὴ is “WIFE/WIVES” (Direct modifiers)</td>
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<td>Total where γυνὴ is “WIFE/WIVES” (Context alone)</td>
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Figures for the Greek New Testament

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<tr>
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<td>Total occurrences of γυνὴ in the GNT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total where γυνὴ is “WOMAN/WOMEN”</td>
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<td>59.4%</td>
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Figures for the Greek New Testament & the LXX Combined

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<td>2.2%</td>
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<td>Total where ἄνὴρ is “HUSBAND/HUSBANDS” (Context alone)</td>
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<td>Total occurrences of γυνὴ in the GNT &amp; LXX</td>
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<td>Total where γυνὴ is “WIFE/WIVES” (Indirect modifiers)</td>
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<td>Total where γυνὴ is “WIFE/WIVES” (Context alone)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Akiyarna, James E. *The Bible Word Program*. This computer program, available for $150 from Hermeneutika (1-206-824-9673), includes the KJV, RSV, UBS Greek NT, Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia Hebrew OT, and the LXX Greek OT. It allows the user to search any specific word or root, and will display the Greek or Hebrew on any VGA monitor. All references in the Appendices were found with this program.


