



Should a woman *desire* her husband?

No. Not in the context of Genesis 3:16. God tells the woman:

*“Your **desire** will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you.”*

Why is this desire NOT a good thing? What does *desire* mean here?

Desire comes from the Hebrew word **T’SUQAH** (“tuh-soo-kah”).

This word is used only 3 times in the Old Testament: Gen. 3:16, Gen. 4:7, and Song of Solomon 7:10.

Key Term
תְּשׁוּקָה
<i>t’suqah</i>

T’SUQAH = DESIRE OR TURNING?

T’suqah = Desire

Almost every Bible translation and commentary today translates *t’suqah* as “desire.” This desire is usually understood as either *sensual desire* **for** their husbands or *controlling desire* **over** their husbands.

However, until 1528, no one translated *t’suqah* as “desire” or “lust” or “control.” No one! In 1528, a Dominican monk from Italy named Pagnino began to translate the Hebrew *t’suqah* as “desire” or “lust.” He leaned heavily on rabbinic tradition, which spoke of the sexual lusts of women. For more study, see the *Ten Curses of Eve* in the Jewish Talmud.

T’suqah = Turning

We must examine how the word was translated before 1528. Each of the 12 known ancient versions,* translated *t’suqah* as “turning.” Latin translated it “*conversio*,” and the Septuagint (Greek) translated it “*apostrophe*.” Both the Latin and Greek indicated the concept of turning, rather than desire or control.

Key Item
<i>apostrophe</i>
<i>apo</i> - from <i>strophe</i> - turn

Before the Fall, where was the woman focused? Where did she turn after the Fall? **The woman turned her allegiance and shifted her attentive focus from the Greater to the lesser in Genesis 3. She turned from God to a man.** Now in the fallen world, the woman will tend to forsake her focus on God and exchange it for devotion to a man - craving security, purpose, and safety from the wrong source. Obviously, such “turning” leads to numerous tragic consequences.

Conclusion

So much changed at the Fall! Not only did sin enter the world and break people’s fellowship with God, it also fractured the relationship between male and female. With the word *t’suqah*, God revealed a tendency of females due to the Fall. They would struggle to devote themselves to God - often preferring the smile of a man. **To this day all believers must battle to turn eyes, focus, and desires toward God, rather than turning toward the world.**



* 12 ancient versions that translated *t’suqah* as “turning”:

Greek Septuagint, Syriac Peshitta, Samaritan Pentateuch, Old Latin, Sahidic, Bohairic, Ethiopic, Arabic, Aquilla’s Greek, Symmachus’ Greek, Theodotion’s Greek, and the Latin Vulgate. These translated *t’suqah* as “turning” in 21 out of 28 references.

See additional research by:

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4 Crucial Questions
1. What does this teach us about GOD ?
2. What does this teach us about PEOPLE ?
3. What command should I OBEY ?
4. With whom can I SHARE this?