

# THE 'S' WORD IS FOR EVERYONE

## LESSON 6

Let me just clear up one thing . . . The 'S' word is NOT Sex.

**Jon Courson says:** *“the ‘S’ word is the key for harmony in ALL relationships, including spouses, houses, and mouses. It’s the key to making every relationship function smoothly.”*

God intends marriage to be the greatest blessing in our lives (next to Him), and He has a design to make that happen. All we have to do is get into alignment with His design.

# *M.I.P.*

Session 6 – **Most Important Point**

**RELATIONSHIPS FUNCTION CORRECTLY ALIGNED WITH  
GOD’S DESIGN. RELATIONSHIPS DIS-FUNCTION  
WHEN WE STRIVE FOR OUR SELF-WILL.**

There are two things we must know about God’s design and the ‘S’ word:

- The ‘S’ word is for everyone; and
- The ‘S’ word is the key to the correct functioning of your marriage.

**AND NOW . . . HERE COMES THE WORD . . .**

The “S” word is . . . . . **SUBMISSION** . . . . There! I’ve said it. It’s out.

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The reason this word causes such a strong battle between flesh and Spirit is because we are consumed with the all-encompassing question:

**“What about ME!” “What about ME?”**

And our flesh is always crying out, *“HEY, if I actually accept God’s design, how am I going to get what I want?”*

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But we really need to hear this; **THE ‘S’ WORD IS FOR EVERYONE !**

**1Pet 5:5**

*“. . . Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility...”*

**Eph 5:21**

*“submitting to one another in the fear of God.”*

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 **WHAT DOES THIS WORD ‘SUBMISSION’ ACTUALLY MEAN?**

**The word is “hupotassō”, it comes from two Greek words:**

**hupo** = *by, under, with*

**tasso** = *to arrange, assign, appoint*

The most common definition is; **to arrange under.**

The primary use of the word is to bring order and functionality . . .  
***and it applies to everyone.***

**In Eph 5:21;**

“*submitting to one another*” means all relationships involve submission.  
“*in the fear of God*” means we are to do it out of respect for God.

It’s not that God has given men and women the same ROLES.  
It’s that submission has a place in **every** ROLE.

 **UPOTASSO IS USED 47 TIMES**  
**IN 32 VERSES**



Jesus to His parents – Luk 2:51  
Creation to God – Rom 8:20  
Christians to government – Rom 13:1  
Church members to leaders – 1Cor 16:16  
Christ to the Father – 1Cor 15:28

The word ‘Submission’ does not mean *subservient*, or *inferior*.  
It does not mean *being a doormat*, or *not having any rights*.  
It’s about God’s design for relationships.

In your marriage, its purpose is to enable you to experience the blessings  
of becoming one flesh.

“**Submitting to one another**” means you set your self-will aside and serve  
the good of your spouse.

You sacrificially put yourself *beneath* them to help bear their burden, **at the  
expense of your self interest.**

# *J* HOW DID JESUS LIVE OUT THE PRINCIPLE OF SUBMISSION?

## **1Cor 11:3**

*“But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”*

*The head of Christ is God??* Now, wait just a minute. Jesus must be living in the dark ages. Jesus, don't you know you have equal rights with God? Poor Jesus, having to live under that archaic system.

***But wait, it gets worse...***

## **John 6:38**

*“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”*

## **John 5:30**

*“ . . . I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”*

## **John 4:34**

*“Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me. . . .”*

Here is a truth to really consider . . .

Without Jesus Christ choosing a life of total submission, you and I could not be saved and going to heaven today.

**THE GREATEST ACT OF SUBMISSION IN THE UNIVERSE  
IS THE ACT THAT GETS YOU INTO HEAVEN.**

Do you really want to say to Jesus, “Well, I appreciate **YOUR** submission, but don’t try to force it on me, because I’ve got my own ideas on all that.”

Submitting to one another is both husband and wife saying;  
***“I am willing to crucify my self to come under you, to bear your burden.”***

Again, look at the perfect example in what Jesus Christ has done for us:

**Phil 2:3-8 (NLT)**

<sup>3</sup> *Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.*

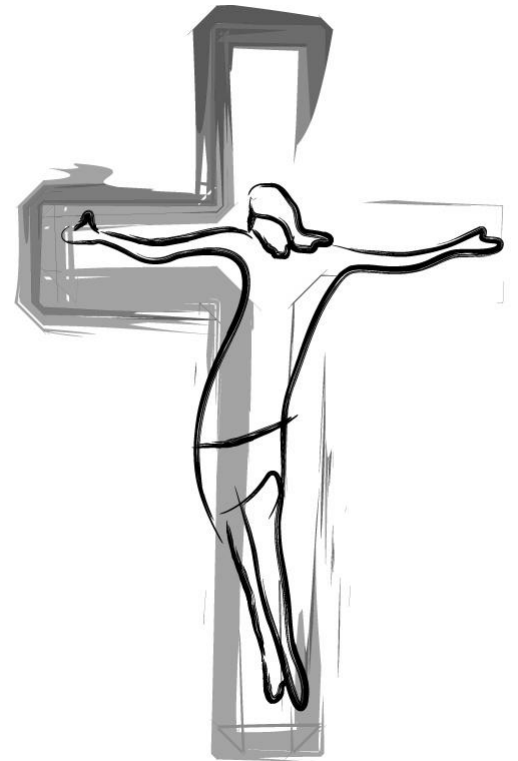
<sup>4</sup> *Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.*

<sup>5</sup> *You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.*

<sup>6</sup> *Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.*

<sup>7</sup> *Instead, he gave up his divine privileges he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,*

<sup>8</sup> *he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.”*



Even though He is God, Jesus Christ gave up His divine privileges and He submitted Himself to death, for you, so that you could be saved today.

And **Phil 2:5** says you must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

We must accept God’s design by faith, and we must choose to act in God’s design by faith, regardless of how we feel, and regardless if the other person deserves it.

Most of us are familiar with that ***infamous*** verse normally used to teach the 'S' word in marriage:

**Eph 5:22**

*"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord."*

The problem is the context of this teaching doesn't start here. It builds up to these key principles for marriage.

The full context starts way back in **Eph 4:1**, but we'll pick it up in **Eph 5:1**:

**Eph 5:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> . . . *be imitators of God . . .*

<sup>2</sup> *And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us [that's submission], an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."*

Then, for the next seventeen verses, we're exhorted to walk in love, light, wisdom, and finally . . . to be *filled with the Spirit*.

**Eph 5:18(B)**

*" . . . be filled with the Spirit,"*



Then, verses 19-21 are the result of being filled with the Spirit:

**Eph 4:19-21**

<sup>19</sup> **speaking** *to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** and making melody in your heart to the Lord,*

<sup>20</sup> **giving thanks** *always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

<sup>21</sup> **submitting** *to one another in the fear of God."*

These are ***the results*** of being filled with the Spirit, **INCLUDING** *"submitting to one another."*

And **Eph 5:21**, “*submitting to one another in the fear of God,*” is actually a transitional verse.

It’s a kick-off verse for the next twenty verses, which apply the “***submitting to one another***” command to the following relationships:



**5:22** - Wives to Husbands

**5:25** - Husbands to Wives

**6:1** - Children to Parents

**6:4** - Parents to Children

**6:5** - Employees to Employers

**6:9** - Employers to Employees

6 different relationships, all relating to the transitional verse 21,  
***“submitting to one another in the fear of God,”***  
which is one of the results of being filled with the Spirit in verse 18.

“*Submitting to one another*” is God’s *secret relationship ingredient*, because it requires us to:

- Esteem the other person higher than ourselves.
- Empty ourselves for the good of the other person.
- Crucify our Self-Will for the good of other person.

*Submitting to one another does not negate the roles of husband and wife. But when we are both functioning in our God designed roles, we are actually **BOTH** placing ourselves underneath one another to strengthen and bear up one another . . . in order to become one flesh.*

# *Response Time . . .*

- Are you willing to put on the mind of Christ in your marriage (who emptied Himself of His privileges and humbled Himself for our good, even to death)?

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- Are you willing to sacrifice your self-will for your spouse?

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- Are you willing to esteem your spouse higher than yourself?

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- In what specific areas could you begin doing this right away?

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**Let's Pray:** *"Heavenly Father, thank you for the power of Your Holy Spirit living in me. I surrender my self-will to Your design for my marriage. Please give me the power to esteem my spouse higher than myself, to empty myself for the good of my spouse, and to come underneath my spouse for their good. In Jesus' name, Amen."*