

A Controversial Subject

A note for singles!

Controversial because...

Sin 1: Male Passivity & Female Dominance

What was the man doing?!? (vs. 6)

Male passivity is a problem because the Bible teaches “male headship”

Ephesians 5:23, 1 Corinthians 11:3 – The husband is the “head” of his wife like Christ is the “head” of man

So wives are called to “*υποτάσσομαι*” – the word is *hypotasso*. It’s a military word: “to arrange military divisions under the command of a leader.” We use this English word “submit.” (Col 3:18, 1 Peter 3:1, Eph. 5:22). The man is never called to *make* his wife submit!

A woman wrote a wonderful article on this topic at fruitfullyliving.com (you can look it up on google: “Is the man the head of the household?”) She makes the comparison of the captain of a ship to it’s “XO” or “executive officer.” The XO practically runs the whole ship! But the captain is there, setting direction, making sure the larger mission is accomplished.

Your desire will be “for” him (vs. 16)

Compare to 4:7 “Sins desire is for you, but you must master it.”

The desire of the woman is to rule in the place of her husband. A logical consequence!

A ship with no captain

Christ and the church – we submit to his headship

A man does not get to lead however he wants. He leads as Christ led. Eph. 5:25

Sin 2: Lack of Transparency

The only reason that leadership/submission should be hard is if the husband and wife have different, hidden, or uncommunicated agendas.

Dealing with shame

What would it be like to be “naked and unashamed?” → Weightless. Free. Utterly unconcerned with yourself.

Impurity leads to secrets

Christ and the church – experiencing forgiveness and intimacy (good communication)

Intimacy: God communicates how he feels towards us

Forgiveness: God knows us completely and loves us absolutely and forgives us eternally

Dr. Douglass – “Don’t come and bother us unless the house is on fire or you’re REALLY bleeding.”

Sin 3: Blame

“The wife you gave me!”

In the absence of divorce-worthy sins, you need to view your husband or wife as a wonderful gift to be cherished and loved, not as a man or woman to be blamed for your problems.

Christ and the church – Jesus takes ownership of our sin

Questions for Personal Study

1. If you’re single: what do these passages teach you about relating to Jesus, regarding authority, intimacy, and submission?
2. Is the idea of male headship difficult for you? Why? Have you seen this practiced in abusive or unbiblical ways?
3. Do you have true transparency in your relationship with your spouse? With God?
4. How does the Gospel help us to take responsibility and blame when things go wrong?