

# FAMILY: God's Way

## A Beautiful Word for Wives

Ephesians 5:21-24

*Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes*

**NKJV** - *"..submitting to one another in the fear of God. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything."*

**NLT** - *"And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything."*

- **A woman once wrote a letter to a pastor, explaining how she got married.**  
*In it she wrote: "I didn't worry very much about getting married. I simply left my future to God's perfect will. So every night, I hung a pair of men's pants on the bed and knelt down and prayed this prayer, 'Father in Heaven, hear my prayer. And grant it if you can. I've hung a pair of trousers here. Please fill them with a man!'" The pastor loved the letter so much, that he read it as part of his sermon the next week. In a certain family, the father and son were present that day, but the wife was home, caring for a sick daughter. When I read the woman's note, I watched them. The father just cracked up laughing, but the boy was rather serious. Interestingly, several weeks later I got a letter from the mother who missed the service. She wrote, "Dear pastor, I'm wondering if I have something to worry about. I've noticed that our son, when he goes to bed at night, has a bikini hanging over the foot of his bed!"*
- **Last week, we learned that SUBMISSION IS CENTRAL in all family relationships.** Even in the first family, the Adam's Family, we saw that the principle of submission was in practice even then. Mutual submission in a family is where we *"choose to **COOPERATE** with and **ADAPT** ourselves to the needs of those around us, out of LOVE."* This is what it means to *"..submit yourselves one to another."*
- When we **submit** to God, we are choosing to recognize His authority and act accordingly. When we **submit** to the police, we recognize the authority of the police and act accordingly. When we **submit** to our employer, we

recognize the authority of our employer and act accordingly. *Submission does not speak of value or inferiority, but rather of **ORDER** and **AUTHORITY**.*

- **EVERY** person in life and family relationships has a role of submission - **EVEN CHRIST!**
  - *"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." (John 6:38)*
  - *"If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." (Matthew 26:39)*

I. Marital Submission is **SPIRITUAL**.

II. Marital Submission is **BIBLICAL**.

III. Marital Submission is **BENEFICIAL**.

IV. Marital Submission is **PURPOSEFUL**.

I. Marital Submission is **SPIRITUAL**. - " *"..submitting to one another in the fear of God. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord."*

- The Bible **NEVER** commands a **universal** or **absolute** submission of **women unto men in society!** This order is commanded only in the spheres of the home and in the church. God has not commanded in His word that men have exclusive authority in the areas of politics, business, education, and so on.
- **"...in the fear of God...as to the Lord"** defines the *motive* of a wife's submission. The reason for choosing to respect her husband, and follow him as the leader of the home, is as an act of **WORSHIP** to Christ! She chooses to submit to her **EARTHLY HUSBAND** out of love and obedience to her **HEAVENLY HUSBAND**, Jesus!!
  - **"The form of the verb (middle voice) shows that the submission is to be voluntary. The wife's submission is never to be forced on her by a demanding husband; it is the deference that a loving wife, conscious that her home (just as any other institution) must have a leader, gladly shows." -Vaughan**
  - **When you get on to the highway, you are choosing to merge with the existing traffic. Since most of this traffic is traveling at high speeds, it's in your benefit to slow down, perhaps even stop, and yield to the vehicles that may be coming up behind you. Since they have the "right of way", you are the one who must **YIELD** and **ADJUST** yourself to them. Marriage is the same. **GOD HAS THE RIGHT OF WAY!** He is moving you along in His plan for your life,**

but you have to choose to **MERGE** with Him, and to do so, you must **YIELD** to His direction for your life. You have to **ADJUST** to what He wants for your life...which includes your marriage!

- A wife's submission to her husband is an essential part of her obedience to Christ. When a wife doesn't obey this command to **"submit to your own husband, as to the Lord"**, she isn't only falling short maritally, as a wife - she is falling short spiritually, as a disciple of Jesus!
  - **"It means:** *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands because it is a part of your duty to the Lord, because it is an expression of your submission to the Lord.' Or, 'Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands; do it in this way, do it as a part of your submission to the Lord.'* In other words, you are not doing it only for the husband, you are doing it primarily for the Lord Himself . . . You are doing it for Christ's sake, you are doing it because you know that Jesus exhorts you to do it, because it is well-pleasing in His sight that you should be doing it. It is part of your Christian discipleship."  
**- Lloyd-Jones**
  - *"Worship is a voluntary act of gratitude, offered by the saved to the SAVIOR, by the healed to the HEALER, by the rescued to the RESCUER!" - Max Lucado*  
  
*"God will refuse to accept worship that is halfhearted or less than what He deserves. Worship that requires little of us is likewise worth little to God." - Blackaby*

## II. Marital Submission is **BIBLICAL.** - "For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church."

- Biblically, there are only 2 Institutions where the woman is to submit to the male leadership: Not in Government, Education, Business, Medicine - no command for general submission of women unto men in the Bible!
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  - **The CHURCH** - 1 Tim 2:8-14; 3:1-7
  - **The HOME** - 1 Tim 2:15; Eph 5:22-25; 1 Pet 3:1-6
  - *"I don't know a single person who truly seems to bear the mark of God's presence and power in his or her life, who hasn't been asked by God to be obedient in a way that was dramatically painful." - Beth Moore*
- 4 Biblical Reasons for the Wife to submit to her Husband:

## Reason #1 - The **CREATION**

1 Tim 2:11-13 NLT - *"Women should learn quietly and submissively. I do not let women teach men or have authority over them. Let them listen quietly. For God made Adam first, and afterward he made Eve."*

1 Cor 11:3,8-9 NLT - *"..there is one thing I want you to know: The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God...For the first man didn't come from woman, but the first woman came from man. And man was not made for woman, but woman was made for man."*

- **This passage makes the point that God created Adam first, and gave him responsibility over Eve.** This happened *before* the fall. Therefore, this passage makes it clear that before and after the fall, God ordained there be different roles between husband and wife. The difference in roles between husband and wife are not the result of the fall, and are not erased by our new life in Jesus.

- *"Notice that the Apostles lay great stress upon it. Man was created first. But not only that; man was also made the lord of creation. It was to man that this authority was given over the brute animal creation; it was man who was called upon to give them names. Here are indications that man was put into a position of leadership, lordship, and authority and power. He takes the decisions, he gives the rulings. That is the fundamental teaching with regard to this whole matter." - Lloyd-Jones*

## ◦ Reason #2 - The **CATASTROPHE**

- Gen 3:1-6 - *"The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'" "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked*

*delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.*

- **1 Tim 2:14** NLT - "And it was not Adam who was deceived by Satan. The woman was deceived, and sin was the result."

### Reason #3 - The **CREATURES**

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- **1 Cor 11:10** NLT - "..because the angels are watching, a woman should wear a covering on her head to show she is under authority."
- **1 Pet 1:12** NLT - "..this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen."
- *"Marriage is not so much **FINDING** the right person, as it is **BEING** the right person." - **Shedd***

### Reason #4 - The **COMMAND**

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- **1 Cor 11:3** NLT - "But there is one thing I want you to know: The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."
- **Perhaps the Christian wife doesn't want there to be a "head"** or a leader of the team. If that is the case, the wife does not understand a Biblical marriage, and will always work against it in one way or another. It is the same as a Christian saying he doesn't want Jesus to be his "head."
- *"When a woman gets married she gives up her name, she takes the name of her husband. That is Biblical, and teaches us the relationship between the husband and the wife." - **Lloyd-Jones***
- *"Ask yourself this question: 'Does my Heavenly Father set before me a path of obedience, that is too difficult for the Spirit of God, and the power of Christ to help me?'" - **Hopkins***

### III. Marital Submission is **BENEFICIAL**. - "He is the Savior of his body, the church."

- **Eph 5:28-29** - "In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church."
  - **John 10:10-11** - "The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep."
  - **John 15:13** - "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."
  - **"What, then, is the doctrine? It is clearly this. The wife is the one who is kept, preserved, guarded, shielded, provided for by the husband. That is the relationship – as Christ nourishes and cherishes the church, so the husband nourishes and cherishes the wife – and the wife should realize that that is her position in this relationship."** - **Lloyd-Jones**
- **1 Tim 4:10** - "This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people and particularly of all believers."
  - "Jesus preserves all men and blesses all men with good things from heaven above. It is in this way that husbands are to be their wife's savior." - **Guzik**
  - "A woman was not made out of his head to top him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him; but out of his side, to be equal to him; under his arm to be protected; and near his heart to be loved." - **Matthew Henry**

### IV. Marital Submission is **PURPOSEFUL**. - "As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything."

- **Eph 5:31-32** - "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church."
- **Paul's point is simple and clear.** We have a model for the marriage relationship: the relationship between Jesus and the church. In that relationship, the headship of Jesus Christ is unquestioned. So also is the husband the head of the "team" that is the one-flesh relationship of husband and wife.
  - **Col 1:16** - "All things were created through Him and for Him."
  - "As Christians, our goal should be, that when people look at us,

*they see Jesus!" - Petersen*

**"Wives, enormous fortunes have been built by very small amounts of money, being faithfully invested over time. The same is true of marriage relationships. Your husband's sense of worth can be greatly enlarged by your reaction to him, and your respect for him. Therefore, the way you treat him, has a direct effect upon yourself! How you relate to him, affects your own quality of life. This teaches us one of life's irrefutable principles: 'You get back, what you put in!'" - Nancy Cobb**

## **Strengthening Your Marriage Bonds:**

- **For Wives:** *How does submission work in your marriage? Are there any attitudes in your thinking and your lifestyle that need adjusting?*
- **For Husbands:** *The model Paul uses for submission is that of the church submitting to Christ. How closely does your role as a husband reflect the servant leadership of the Savior you claim to follow?*

**For Both:** *Discuss with your mate how mutual submission might work in your marriage.*