



## “Strength in Submission”

Pastor Jason West | August 31, 2025

*Ephesians 5:22-24* “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.”

*Colossians 3:18* “Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”

*1 Peter 3:1-2* “Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.”

### I. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Submission

#### A. Objection 1 – “Submission Means I’m Inferior”

- **Answer: Submission is About Role, Not Value**

#### B. Objection 2: “What if My Husband Leads in an Ungodly Way?”

- **Answer:**

1. **We Submit to God First and Foremost**
2. **Submission is Voluntary**

Definition of Submit: ‘hupōtassō’/‘hupotássomai’ to voluntarily right one self beneath another, to subject oneself, place oneself in submission<sup>1</sup>

#### C. Objection 3: “Didn’t Paul Say in Galatians There is No Male or Female in Christ?”

*Galatians 3:28* “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus”

- **Answer: Galatians 3 Teaches Equal Salvation, Not Identical Roles**

*Galatians 3:26* “for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.”

#### D. Objection 4: “So I Have to Treat My Husband Like God?”

*Ephesians 5:22* “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”

- **Answer: Submitting to Your Husband is Something You Do FOR the Lord**

### II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Submission

*Ephesians 5:23* “For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.”

#### A. Praise \_\_\_\_\_, Not Just Success

*1 Corinthians 15:58* “So then, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

#### B. Pause For His \_\_\_\_\_

*Proverbs 11:14* “Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.”

#### C. Promote Him Leading \_\_\_\_\_

*Joshua 24:15b* “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

#### D. Protect His \_\_\_\_\_ and Honor

*Ephesians 5:33b* “Let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

#### E. Point Out His \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Thessalonians 5:11* “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

#### F. Pray Like He Can’t Lead Without It

*James 5:16b* “The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”

#### G. Practice \_\_\_\_\_ and Give Grace

*Ephesians 4:2* “With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.”

### III. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Submission

*Ephesians 5:23-24* “For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.”

*Ephesians 5:32-33* “This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

<sup>1</sup>Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).



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### BACKGROUND:

During this sermon series through the book of Ephesians we've been exploring God's purpose and design for marriage, husbands, and love. Today we will be looking at God's design and purpose for wives. You may find yourself single, divorced, or widowed and wonder how this message may apply to your life. You will see that God's design for marriage, parents, children, and family transcends all sorts of relationships.

### DIGGING DEEPER:

**1. In verse 22 we see Paul instructing wives to submit to their husbands. Notice he qualifies this submission by stating that they should submit "as to the Lord."**

- What does it mean to submit as to the Lord?
- How is being submissive a Christlike attribute?
- Can you recall ways in which Jesus submitted to the Father and the Holy Spirit?
- How might a wife submitting to her husband actually be submitting to God's plan for their marriage?

**2. Verse 23 speaks to "Headship". Headship is an important concept in the Kingdom of God. When we apply God's standards of headship as it relates to love, submission, responsibility, and servant leadership - the family thrives. (Ephesians 5:21-33; Colossians 3:18-20; 1 Peter 3:1-7)**

- How can God's design for the husband to be the head of the household allow the rest of the family to find it easier to fulfill their own roles?
- How does fulfilling these roles make it easier for each person in the family to function according to God's design?
- Can you think of examples outside the family where headship is important to how well an organization, entity, or relationship functions?

**3. Paul states in verse 24 that the church submits to Christ. In the same way "wives should submit in everything to their husbands."**

- What are some examples of how the church (the bride) submits to Jesus (the bridegroom)?
- What is meant by "submit in everything"?
- What are some practical ways a wife can submit to her husband, even if she feels he isn't deserving of that submission?

### TAKING IT HOME:

**4. Read Proverbs 31:10-31. This proverb shows how a family can profit from following God's design and purpose for wives. Christlike submission, love, respect, leading, and serving – all empower the wife to honor God as well as her husband and family.**

- Was there someone in your family that you looked up to as a godly wife? Someone who feared the Lord? What was their influence on you?
- In your opinion, what is the most challenging aspect of the marriage relationship as it relates to one's role?
- Is there an obstacle, or hindrance, preventing you from being the spouse (or family member, friend, co-worker, or neighbor) God wants you to be? How can your group pray for you and encourage you to submit to God's will?