

# **Marriage Words—Keys to a Strong Marriage**

## ***Submission***

### **Pastor Kurt Skelly**

**Introduction:** Submission is not an attractive word, and it is one of the most politically incorrect words in a modern marriage. Its importance though cannot be overstated. Without a proper understanding of roles, marriage becomes little more than a constant battle of each other's will.

## **The Attitude of a God-Honoring Wife**

### **(1) Positional Submission (v.22-23)**

The Bible teaches that the husband is the governmental leader of the marriage and of the home (1 Cor. 11:2-3).

The Bible does not teach that men are better than women; nor does it teach that men and women are not equal.

Just as one would submit to the authority of a church leader or of a civil leader, so the wife should submit to the authority of her husband.

Remember that the one in authority is the one with the accountability (James 3:1; Heb. 13:17).

## **(2) Particular Submission (v.22-23)**

Wives are to submit to their own husbands.

How often is submission extended to the pastor or the boss and not to one's own husband?

What is particular to one's own husband?

His authority over you: don't undermine it through rebellion or manipulation. (See Gen. 27:5-10.)

His abilities and gifts : don't compare him negatively with other men. (See 2 Cor. 10:12.)

His prerogatives to your love: don't defraud him physically. (See 1 Cor. 7:2-5.)

His spiritual leadership: don't demean *any effort* he makes in a positive spiritual direction. (See Job 2:9.)

His calling: don't disassociate yourself from his work. (See Gen. 2:18.)

## **(3) Parameters of Submission (v.24)**

Wives are to submit to husbands "in everything."

Defined contextually, *everything* would not include that which violates one's obedience to Christ (note as *unto the Lord* in v. 22 and as *the church is subject to Christ* in v. 24). See also Romans 13:1-7.

A husband's leadership is not limited to spiritual decisions alone. He is accountable for the way by which money is spent, children are reared, ministry is conducted, etc.

The wise husband will include his wife in decision-making and will often defer to her expertise in areas; however, a wife's responsibility to submit remains regardless of his choice to include her in the decision.

Although he has delegated some areas of authority to his wife, the husband must remember that he remains ultimately accountable to God for those decisions. (See Gen. 3:12 and 16:2.)