

A Wife's Submission Pt.1

July 20, 2014 Sunday AM

Ecclesiastes 9:9

"Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun."

Ephesians 5:22-33 "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord."

This is NOT a statement of worth or value, but simply a statement of function by God's design.

SUBMISSION IS THE AGREEABLE YIELDING OF ONE'S OPINIONS, ATTITUDES, PREFERENCES, DESIRES AND AGENDA TO THE DECISIONS AND COURSE SET BY AN AUTHORITY, even when you have a different opinion or it adds more work.

- **SUBMISSION IS NOT A HEART OF REBELLION CLOAKED BY OUTWARD CONFORMITY, BUT IS AN ATTITUDE OF THE HEART WHICH PERMEATES OUR ACTIONS.**
- **DISAGREEMENT** (*which can come from many motives*) **IS THE TRUE TEST OF SUBMISSION BECAUSE IT PITS ONE PERSON'S WILL AGAINST ANOTHER'S.**

SUBMISSION REQUIRES TWO CO-DEPENDENT (*one can't happen without the other*) **COMPONENTS:**

- **Faith in God**
 - **His Will** - *He knows what's best. His plan is wise eternally beyond my comprehension.*
 - **His Sovereignty** - *His plan will ultimately be accomplished no matter who is in charge or what decisions are made.*
 - **His Goodness** - *God's desire and intent for me is only my good, no matter how hard the journey might become.*
- **Surrender of Self** (*will, agenda, desires, opinions, preferences*)
 - **"Wives, submit to your own husbands, AS TO THE LORD."** Ephesians 5:22-33

Ephesians 5:22-33

22 **Wives, submit** (*hupotasso - under God's arrangement, to place, arrange or rank under, subordinate, obey*) **to your own (unique) husbands, as to the Lord.**

23 For **the husband is the head** (*supreme, prominent, chief, lord, master*) **of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church**, his body, and **is himself its Savior.**

24 Now **as the church submits** (*hupotasso - under God's arrangement, to place, arrange or rank under, subordinate, obey*) **to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.**

25 **Husbands, love** (*agapáō – to prefer, to love, a "discriminating affection which involves choice and selection"*)
your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
26 **that he might sanctify** (*to make holy, to make as dedicated to God, more distinct, devoted*) **her, having**
cleansed (*to clean, purify, heal, purge of evil*) **her by the washing of water with the word,**

God's intent and purpose for the husband being the head was for the husband to use his leadership to spiritually guide and nourish his wife, not so he can be the "boss" and have things his way.

If you're not using your headship for God's intent and purpose, then you have no Biblical right to insist that your wife submit to you.

Ephesians 5:22-33

27 so that **he might present the church** to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

28 In the same way **husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.** He who loves his wife loves himself. (*"...as their own bodies..." - 1. knowledge 2. sensitivity 3. action*)

29 For **no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes** (*bring up, provide with nourishment, provide for*) **and cherishes** (*to soften by heat, warm up, to brood as birds warm their young by covering with their feathers, to treat with tenderness and affection*) **it**, just as Christ does the church,

30 because we are members of his body.

31 **"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and HOLD FAST** (*to glue, unite closely*) **to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."** (*committed to one woman and one woman only*)

32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

33 However, **let each one of you LOVE HIS WIFE AS HIMSELF, and let the wife see that she RESPECTS HER HUSBAND.**

- *If the husband ministers a forced authority, then the wife's submission will be forced. If the husband ministers a loving Ephesians 5 authority, then the wife's submission will be likewise loving.*
- *The environment the husband sets in the home will set the level of ease and comfort of submission.*
- *The godly husband/father makes it as easy as possible to submit, not by compromising the standard of truth, but in the administration of that standard ("...speaking the truth in love..." Eph 4:15).*

JESUS' MODEL OF SUBMISSION:

Matthew 11:28-30

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest.**

Submission brings rest from a sense of security, not oppression and fear. Disorder brings confusion and chaos.

Matthew 11:28-30

29 **TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU**, and **LEARN OF ME**; for I am **MEEK** and **LOWLY** in heart: and **ye shall find rest unto your souls**.

Submission ("take my yoke") seeks to learn the heart and the methods of the one being submitted to. If the heart of the leader is meek and lowly, it provokes a heart of submission that wants to learn and wants to please. The yoke is taken not only voluntarily, but eagerly.

Matthew 11:28-30

30 For **my yoke is EASY**, and **my burden is LIGHT**.

When operating Biblically and correctly, the relationship of headship and submission should make life easier and the work lighter, not harder and heavier.

OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLE OF SUBMISSION:

1 Samuel 14:4-7

4 Within the passes, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistine garrison, there was a rocky crag on the one side and a rocky crag on the other side. The name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh.

5 The one crag rose on the north in front of Michmash, and the other on the south in front of Geba.

6 Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. **IT MAY BE** that the Lord will work for us, for nothing can hinder the Lord from saving by many or by few."

7 And his armor-bearer said to him, "**Do all that is in your heart. Do as you wish. Behold, I AM WITH YOU heart and soul.**"

SIGNS OF BIBLICAL SUBMISSION:

- **assurance of God's supernatural involvement and intervention**
- **respect for the boundaries of roles and responsibilities**
- **freedom from anxiety and fear; brings peace, contentment and rest**
- **no self-pity, no victim-paranoia (submission is universal, men and women)**
- **no criticism, no gossip, no second-guessing of motives**
- **does not mistake leadership and submission as a statement of value or superiority**
- **never flaunts superiority in intelligence, experience or skill**
- **no compulsion to intervene or control**
- **information is shared and alternatives are suggested submissively and respectfully**
- **whole-hearted effort to make the decision or course successful**
- **is not blind obedience, nor will submission contradict God's Word**
- **is perfectly content and happy in their role and position, not striving for a different role**