

Husbands, Wives, and Biblical Authority

Ephesians 5.21-33

- The authority structure of the husband and wife is an illustration of the authority structure of Christ and the Church
- Jesus is the Head of the Church
- Ephesians 1.15-23
- I Corinthians 11.3

There is one God, Jehovah, who exists in 3 equal Persons: Father, Son, and Spirit

- They are the same in essence and substance: God
- Their functions differ: God sent the Son, who obeyed the Father, in the power of the Spirit. The Son died, and the Father raised Him from the dead. Ephesians 1.20

- Since the Son is truly equal with the Father, His obedience must be voluntary—it cannot be compelled.
- Philippians 2.5-8
- John 8.26-28; John 12.49-50
- Men and women are equal in standing before God: Galatians 3.26-29.
- They are saved by same God, in the same way, to the same end

But there are differences between men and women that are anchored in their creation

- I Corinthians 11:7-12
- Male headship is not the result of culture, negotiation, or physical dominance
- It is the result of creation—and therefore cannot be delegated or denied

- Men submit to the authority of God by leading—as Christ leads the Church
- Women submit to the authority of God by placing themselves in submission—as Christ submitted to the Father
- Ephesians 5.22
- I Peter 3.1-7

- The husband's authority is not without boundaries—he has no authority to disobey or dishonor Christ
- The wife's submission is not total and silent passivity:
- Ephesians 6.1
- I Timothy 5.14
- Proverbs 31

How does that work in practice?

- There is an issue: money, children, work, etc.
- There is a discussion about the issue
- Both parties should respect each other as to their position in the marriage: the husband **MUST** lead, and the wife **MUST** live with that decision. I Peter 3.7

- Both parties should be concerned about God's glory as the goal of the decision