

*Living Worthy of My Calling, Pt. 21*  
*“Spiritual Duties of Wives” – Part 2*

Ephesians 5:22-24, 33

**Review: Preliminary Considerations:**

1. An outworking of our calling as believers – our sanctification (4:1)
2. What follows is conditioned by our submission to one another – we are Christians first! (5:21)
3. For wives, a specialized application of the same duty – this within Christ’s prescribed order.
4. Note: the instruction to wives is more brief, thus, the husband’s responsibility is emphasized.
5. There is a distinct sense in which this section is addressed to husbands.

**A Wife’s submission to her husband is:**

**1. A Matter First of Her Service to Christ**

v. 22

**(1) “submit”**

*“Wives, submit to your own husbands,  
as to the Lord.”*

- “be subject” “to subordinate or subject oneself” cf. Gk: “line up under”
- present participle – indicates a continual duty

**(2) “as to the Lord”** (cf. // v. 21 “in the fear of Christ”)

- an expression or extension of my service and submission to Christ.

**(3) Not a matter of the husband deserving or “earning” such submission**

- As also pertains to our mutual submission among the brethren (21)
- I cannot refuse to serve my brother in this way on the grounds that I see sin and fault in him.

**(4) A fundamental duty – each spouse is here addressed according to need or weakness**

**2. A Matter of the Divine Ordering of Life**

v. 23

**(1) Spiritually speaking, this is not optional**

*“For the husband is the head of the wife,  
as also Christ is head of the church;  
and He is the Savior of the body.”*

- a divine law of life
- a divinely established institution which can only see blessing according to divine design

**(2) Essential to the nature and blessing of the union**

- Christ is wonderfully joined to His church How? As a head is to the body
- The blessings of union are known only in the context of this headship and submission
- Thus, the husband and wife: the blessings of union are known in the context of headship and submission

**(3) The Husband, as head, is to be an agent of blessing to the wife.**

**3. A Matter of Fundamental Orientation**

v. 24

**(1) Submission as an expression of love**

*“Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ,  
so let the wives be to their own husbands  
in everything.”*

**(2) Submission as a foundational assumption**

**(3) Submission as a powerful example**

**4. A Matter of Reverence and Respect**

v. 33

**(1) A Summary – and Parallel Statement**

*“...let the wife see that she respects her husband.”*

- As the fundamental duty of the husband is to love his wife, to nourish and cherish her, the fundamental duty of the wife is to respect, honor, and submit to her husband.

**(2) Further defines the nature of submission**

- The wife is to honor her husband
- The wife is to cultivate respect for her husband

**Further Application**

**What submission *does not* mean:**

- (1) Inferiority
  - cf. our Savior’s submission to the Father
  - though the woman is the more delicate vessel, she is not in any sense inferior
- (2) Lesser worth to God
- (3) Doing “whatever he says”
- (4) Never appealing his decisions