

**Some overview & introductory points about MARRIAGE:**

- Marriage is MONOGAMOUS - **one man & one wife**
- Marriage is HETEROSEXUAL - **wife, husband // man, woman**
- Marriage is DIVINELY-GIVEN - Gen 2
- Marriage is PERMANENT - Mal 2:14 / Eph 5:31-32 / Matt 19:
- Marriage is MYSTERIOUS - Eph 5.32

**The commitment of a married couple:**

- **YOUR PURPOSE** must be the glory of God
- **YOUR HOPE** must be the gospel of grace
- **YOUR HOME** must be the local church
- **YOUR POWER** must be the filling of the Spirit

**THESIS — from Ephesians 5.22-24 - God shepherds the wives along ...**

Christian wife, God calls you to be...

1. Be Wholeheartedly Submissive
2. Be Selflessly Reverent

**I. BE WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUBMISSIVE! (22-24)**

"This equality in personhood and difference in function is beautifully illustrated by the Godhead. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all equal (John 10:30; 14:9), and yet in function the Son submits to the Father (John 5:19, 20; 6:38; 8:28, 29, 54; 1Cor. 15:28; Phil. 2:5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11), and the Holy Spirit is sent by the Father to testify of and glorify the Son (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13, 14). Thus, the divinely defined relationship between husband and wife is analogous to the relationship within the Godhead, and the relationship within the Godhead is a pattern of instruction for the family unit." (W.A. Criswell)

**A. What: be submissive****B. To Whom: to your own husband**

**C. How: as to the LORD****D. Why: the husband is your head/leader/authority****E. Like what: as the church submits to Christ (24a)**

1. **knowledgeably** — we must KNOW what he wants
2. **happily** — we get great delight in obeying Him!
3. **heartfully** — we submit & obey *internally from within, in the heart*
4. **worshipfully** - as an act of/expression of worship to GOD!
5. **obediently** - we submit by obeying & doing what he calls
6. **evangelistically** — to be a light to the watching world!
7. **dutifully** — it's the right thing to do; God's plan/design for us
8. **prayerfully** — praying for strength; asking for his help.
9. **trustingly** — we submit, obey & follow trusting His leadership.

**F. How much: in everything**

A Christian wife's submission may not always be the easiest or the happiest thing to do, but I promise there will always be true joy for the Christian in glorifying the Lord Jesus and walking in His Ways (Martha Peace).

***Some practical applications:***

1. **How can you, Christian wife, submit?** Some helpful tips:
  - asking him questions and humbly listening more

**Ephesians 5:22-24 — "The Godly Wife's Submission"**

- not nagging him — A continual dripping on a very rainy day. And a contentious woman are alike. Proverbs 27:15
- be quick to respond to a request from husband. Make an effort to remember your husband's past requests and desires and seek to fulfill them when possible.
- Speak well of him publicly — especially in front of the kids. Look for the occasional opportunity to draw attention to your husband's positive qualities when you're with other people.
- Make an effort to gain an appreciation for your husband's occupation, trying to understand how important he feels his job activities are.
- honor him with modest beauty & attractiveness that wins HIS eye in a unique & particular way
- keep the kids in line
- keep things confidential when he shares his heart with you — The heart of her husband safely trusts her. Proverbs 31:11
- spend money wisely & stay within the budget.
- Begin to admire your husband in nonverbal ways.

2. Negatively, a woman shows **a lack of compassion** when she:

- does things annoying or vexing to her husband (Prov 21.29)
- she doesn't discipline her children as she should (Prov 29.15)
- if she is MORE loyal to others/including the kids than to her husband (Prov 31.11)
- if she argues or pouts or gives the husband the cold shoulder when she doesn't get her way (Prov 21.9)
- when she doesn't stay within their budget limits (Prov 19.14)
- she corrects, interrupts, talks for her husband and is TOO outspoken when others are around (Prov 27.15-16)
- she manipulates him to get her own way (by deceit, tears, begging, nagging, complaining, anger, intimidation) (Luke 10.40)
- she makes decisions without consulting him and agreeing with him first (1 Cor 11.3)
- She directly defies his wishes (1 Sam 15.23)
- she worries about all the decisions he makes and takes matters into her own hands (Phil 4.7-8)
- She doesn't pay attention to what he says (James 1.19)

MOST DEAR AND LOVING HUSBAND, I cannot express my love to you, as I desire, in these poor, lifeless lines; but I do heartily wish you did see my heart, how true and faithful it is to you, and how much I do desire to be always with you, to enjoy the sweet comfort of me your presence, and those helps from you in spiritual and temporal duties, which I am so unfit to perform without you. It makes to see the want of you, and wish myself with you. But I desire we may be guided by God in all our

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ways, who is able to direct us for the best; and so I will wait upon him with patience, who is all-sufficient for me. Farewell, my sweet husband!

— Margaret Winthrop (*a letter written to her husband John Winthrop*)

**THE REFORMATION HYMN**

We will trust God’s Word alone,  
Where his perfect will is known;  
Our traditions shift like sand  
While his Truth forever stands.

We will live by faith alone,  
Clothed in merit not our own;  
All we claim is Jesus Christ  
And his finished sacrifice.

**Chorus:**

*Glory be, glory be to God alone,  
Through the church he redeemed and made his own.  
He has freed us, he will keep us till we’re safely home  
Glory be, glory be to God alone!*

We are saved by grace alone—  
Undeserved, yet freely shown;  
No accomplishment on earth  
Can achieve the second birth.

We will stand on Christ alone,  
The unyielding Cornerstone;  
Nations rage and devils roar,  
Still he reigns forevermore!

*Ephesians 5:22-24 — "The Godly Wife's Submission"*

### **AND CAN IT BE?**

And can it be that I should gain  
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, should die for me?

#### **Refrain:**

*Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, should die for me!*

He left His Father's throne above,  
So free, so infinite His grace;  
Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race;  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
For, O my God, it found out me. [Refrain]

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free;  
I rose, went forth and followed Thee. [Refrain]

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own. [Refrain]

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## **JESUS SHALL REIGN**

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does his successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,  
And praises throng to crown His head;  
His name like sweet perfume shall rise  
With every morning sacrifice.

### **CHORUS:**

*He shall reign in glory, crowned with grace and might  
Bless His name and praise our sovereign King.  
He shall reign forever with His chosen Bride,  
And all the earth shall sing that Jesus is the King.*

People and realms of every tongue  
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on His name.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns;  
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains;  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all the sons of want are blest.

Where He displays His healing power,  
Death and the curse are known no more:  
In Him the tribes of Adam boast  
More blessings than their father lost.

Let every creature rise and bring  
Peculiar honors to our king;  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud amen.

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**GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain:**

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see:*

*all I have needed thy hand hath provided--*

*Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]