

095 - In Everything - Ephesians 5:24 - 2016-06-05

Call to Worship: Matthew 28:18-20

Scripture Reading: Acts 3:1-22

Sermon: "In Everything" Ephesians 5:24

Benediction: Revelation 21:5-7

## INTRODUCTION

As an introduction to today's study, let's stop for a moment to look around us, to see where we are in relation to where we started.

Two years ago, May 25th, 2014, we started in studying together the Word of the Lord as written in the letter to the Ephesians. That day, I said this to you:

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I hope that we will better learn the truth about the very fundamentals of true Christianity

A. Why I see this as necessary

1. for some of us on certain points we just don't know at all what is meant by certain words in the bible, even words that communicate foundational concepts
2. more often, though, our situation is worse than just ignorance; instead of not knowing, we think we know, but we are wrong in what we think to be true. Which is a worse problem--- a house not yet built, the foundation not even laid or a house partially or even completely built on a foundation that is not stable
3. APPLICATION: Having heard what you have to say about some things, and having studied to know what you have been listening to, I know that you have a wrong understanding of some very fundamental matters as to religion
4. NOTE: I unashamedly tell you that as we study through Ephesians together, I intend to emphasize areas that your elders know to be problems among you. I intend to make applications to what we know to be actual issues in this particular group of people. I'm not writing a book on Ephesians for general consumption, but preaching a series of sermons through Ephesians for the building up of this particular congregation.

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In that first year, by God's grace we completed the first three chapters of Ephesians, the more theological section, teaching us to give all glory to God for our salvation, for it is by grace we are saved, through faith in Jesus Christ, not by works, since we were dead in trespasses, and He raised us from the dead in Christ Jesus.

During that year, the brothers who held firmly to the false doctrines I mentioned removed themselves from this church, some very graciously and gently, to their great credit. The church grew stronger in the knowledge and conviction to the truths of the faith, especially of God's sovereign grace in the salvation of His elect.

So, about one year ago, with that work done, we stood on the doorstep of chapters 4-6, the ethical, practical section of Ephesians, and heard the charge: "Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called." At that time I said to you

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So, if you delight in the way of God inside yourself; but you know yourself to be a sinner in your flesh, then I invite you turn the page with me. God is the only one who knows what will happen tomorrow, but if things go along as they have been going, we'll be at this a year or more, almost every Lord's Day. And the work we do together in these sessions, I think the Holy Spirit will work out inside you with great power.

I think this is going to be somewhat difficult

I think this is going to be somewhat painful

I think this is going to be somewhat humiliating

You know what's coming, don't you?

Wives, you will be told to submit to your husbands as unto the Lord

Husbands, you will be told to die to yourself for the sake of your wife, as Christ has done for the church.

Children, you will be told to obey your parents.

But all of that isn't even until near the end of chapter 5 and the beginning of chapter 6.

There is a lot of hard, painful, humiliating work to be done before we even get there!

But, oh, I think it is going to be very, very good.

I think it is a great privilege to be in this situation.

I think this is just what I have needed, for my own sake, for my family's sake, for the good of the church.

I think this is just what is needed by the unbelieving sinners around us---to see us brought to where we walk in the way of the Lord.

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That was last summer. It has been about a year since then. We worked hard through chapter four, including seven sermons on baptism in the face of the issue of Presbyterian infant

sprinkling. We worked hard through chapter five, including the doctrine of keeping all manner of impurity far from us, since we once were darkness, but now are light in the Lord.

Most recently, we have been working hard through the doctrine of submission of the wife to the husband.

We considered together that submitting is part of the life of the spirit-filled Christian.

We considered the excellence of submitting

We considered who we are submitting to---to those others whom God has put over us.

We considered why a wife is to submit to her husband---because the husband is the head of the wife.

We considered how a wife is to submit to her husband not only because it is so ordered, but also because it is so ordered for her own good.

Today, we work on this doctrine of the wife's submission to her own husband, for the last time. I perhaps should apologize, because we have had only these few sermons on wives submitting to their husbands, and you might have wanted at least an even dozen. But this is all that seems to come naturally out of the text, so you'll have to be satisfied for now with just these few.

Today we see in the Word of God that **our Lord Jesus Christ teaches his church that wives are to submit to their own husbands in everything.**

TEXT

Ephesians 5:24 ~~Therefore~~, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything [or "in all things"] [*en G1722 pas G3956*]

BODY

- I. The Church Submits to Christ In Everything, In All Things
  - A. It is the purpose of God that He be glorified in the church through Jesus Christ in all things. 1 Peter 4:11b If anyone serves, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.
  - B. To that end, God the Father has made Jesus Christ the Son the head over all things to the church (Eph 1:22-23)
    1. You just heard there in 1 Peter 4:11 that to Jesus Christ belongs all dominion forever and ever.
    2. Ephesians 1:22-23a And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body

3. You remember from the Great Commission, which you heard read at the beginning of the service, that the Lord Jesus said, "All authority has been given to me."
  - C. So it is right that our Lord Jesus Christ has commanded that His church teach His disciples to obey Him in all things that He has commanded (Mt 28:18-20): "teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you."
  - D. Peter explained that this is the fulfillment of what Moses commanded Israel centuries before, when he commanded them to obey the prophet God would send in all things (Acts 3:22)
  - E. And John expresses that this is the cry of our born-again souls, as we consider what the Lord Jesus has done for us. Because He has loved us and shed His own blood for us, we delight to ascribe to Him the rule, the dominion in all things!
    1. Revelation 1:5-6 Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (6) and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
  - F. What grace from the Lord that He reckons us as in submission to our Lord Jesus Christ! Certainly our souls are, the inner man regenerated by the Holy Spirit!
  - G. So here in Ephesians 5, in the context of teaching wives to submit to their own husbands, the word of God mentions that the church is subject to Christ in everything, in all things (Eph 5:24)
    1. that is God's purpose for His glory
    2. that is what God has instituted, setting Christ over the church as its Head
    3. that is what our Lord Jesus has Himself commanded
    4. that is what Moses commanded, as interpreted for us by Peter
    5. that is what John expressed on our behalf, the cry of our redeemed souls to the One who has redeemed us
    6. that, then, is the situation: since God has placed our dear Lord Jesus Christ over the church, and the church under Him, the church submits to Christ in everything, in all things
- II. As The Church Submits to Christ, Whom God Has Placed Over Us, in Everything, in All Things, So We Are Commanded Also to Submit to Those God Has Placed Over Us in the Household In Everything, In All Things
- A. Children toward their parents (Col 3:20)
    1. Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents **in all things**, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.
      - a) one sense in which it is well pleasing to the Lord is that He set up the household this way; it is His arrangement
      - b) God set parents over children in the household in everything, so it is pleasing to him for children to submit to their parents in everything
  - B. Servants toward their masters (Col 3:22)

1. Colossians 3:22 Bondservants, obey **in all things** your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.
2. In another let, Titus, the apostle says more about why servants should submit to masters in everything, or in all things, and it is instructive for children and wives as well, showing us the relationship between submission in all things and the gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ
  - a) Titus 2:9 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing **in all things**, not answering back,
  - b) Titus 2:10 not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may **adorn the doctrine** of God our Savior **in all things**.
  - c) Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,
    - (1) you are submitting because in God's grace He has saved you through our Savior Jesus Christ
  - d) Titus 2:12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,
    - (1) in the Gospel is the teaching that during this present age we do not walk by our own desires, with no reference to God's commands,
    - (2) but instead we take seriously what the Lord has commanded us to do and walk accordingly
  - e) Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
    - (1) we are not looking to worldly hopes for getting what will feel good to our flesh in this age
    - (2) we are looking instead to the blessed hope of spending eternity with our God and Savior Jesus Christ when He comes
  - f) Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.
    - (1) He gave Himself to redeem us from our lawlessness, which we generally accept
    - (2) but see that He did so not to leave us to please our own flesh, but to be zealous for good works
    - (3) and at the head of those good works is: submit to those who are over you **in everything, in all things**

C. Wives toward their husbands

- III. As The Church Submits to Christ in Everything, in All Things, So You Wives Are to Submit to Your Own Husbands In All Things

- A. To clear away a difficulty: “in everything” or “in all things” cannot be taken to mean all things whatsoever, without any limits
1. not in anything clearly contrary to the commands of God
    - a) universal morality
    - b) ordinances of Christ’s church
  2. not in extreme cases of gross misconduct
  3. Calvin: it being always understood that conscience is not to be infringed upon
  4. An old way of saying this is that “in everything” or “in all things” describes the extent of submission, but not the degree
  5. For us, learning our Lord’s doctrine of dealing with those He has set over us, there is a ditch on either side of the road here
    - a) you could read “in all things” and take that to the extreme, yielding to a person in authority the kind of unlimited submission that belongs only to our Lord Jesus Christ
      - (1) don’t fall into that ditch
      - (2) accept that there are limits to submission
    - b) you could hear and understand that there are limits and exceptions to what submission is fitting in the Lord, and essentially put everything you don’t like into the category of exceptions, beyond the limits of what is commanded
    - c) so, let it be that God’s people neither ignore the limits of submission, nor use those limits as a mask for non-submission
  6. Understanding that when you deal with sinful people who are over you in this age, your submission cannot be absolute and unlimited, still our Lord’s command for you is, submit to your husband in everything, in all things
- B. What is meant, then, in the Word of God, by “in everything” or “in all things”
1. in the original, it is two words rather than three
    - a) the word “thing” or “things” is not there
    - b) the phrase is “in all” Greek *en pas*
  2. “in everything” or “in all things” is used to refute the natural idea that it would be “in *some* things”
    - a) Colossians 1:17-18 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. (18) And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.
      - (1) it is easily understood that an important religious person, or the god in some religion would be before some things, and in him some things would consist, and that he would have the preeminence in some things

- (2) but the bible teaches us that Christ is before not just some things, but before all things, and He has the preeminence not in some things, but in all things
  - b) so, wives submit to your husbands not in *some* things, but in everything, in all things
- 3. "in everything" or "in all things" is used to refute the natural idea of things easy or pleasant or agreeable, extending the application to things difficult, unpleasant, disagreeable
  - a) Philippians 4:11-13 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: (12) I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and **in all things** I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. (13) I can do **all things** through Christ who strengthens me.
    - (1) naturally Paul, a leading Christian, would have learned to be content when he is full of food and has plenty of money; it is easy, pleasant, and agreeable to have plenty of food and money
    - (2) but the bible teaches us that Paul had learned to be content when he was hungry and in need, which are things difficult, unpleasant, disagreeable

#### IV. APPLICATION

- A. Write in your conscience a correct exposition of this verse
  - 1. Wives submit to your husbands in everything, a few certain things excepted (instead of in a few certain things, everything else excepted)
  - 2. Wives submit to your husbands not only in some things, but in all things
  - 3. Wives submit to your husbands
    - a) not only in things that are agreeable to you, but in things that are disagreeable
    - b) not only thing things that please you, but in things that displease you
- B. Before you refuse submission on the grounds that what your husband wants is against the commands of God, check with the older women
  - 1. Titus 2:3-5 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- (4) that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.
  - 2. Since the older women are to teach the younger women to be obedient to their own husbands, it makes sense that a woman who is going to make such a move as to refuse submission to her husband in some area would counsel with the older women to make sure she is making a right judgment about her situation

- C. Think of submitting to your husband in everything as the art of decorating
1. it may be that you enjoy decorating your home
    - a) but it may be that your house is nothing really splendid
    - b) it also may be that you don't have much money to work with, so you don't have decorations to use that are all that beautiful
  2. but you also have the blessed gospel of Jesus Christ to decorate
    - a) it is a splendid, beautiful thing in the first place
    - b) but the Holy Spirit has put in your tremendous wealth to draw upon for decorations
    - c) He has put in you the power to submit to your husband in all things
    - d) In God's sight, submitting to your husband in all things is like buying the most beautiful decorations and decorating the gospel with them
    - e) When those certain sinners, in whom the Holy Spirit is doing that powerful work of regeneration, hear the gospel preached, and it seems lovely to them, and then see the gospel decorated by your works of submission in all things, the gospel seems to them doubly beautiful

## CONCLUSION

Ephesians 5:17-24 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (18) And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, (19) speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, (20) giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, (21) submitting to one another in the fear of God. (22) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (23) For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. (24) Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.



### **as the church is subject unto Christ**

Ferguson:

1. the manner: as the church unto Christ
2. the extent: in everything

the manner of this subjection: willingly, cheerfully, lovingly, chastely, and dutifully, for so doth the church subject herself unto Christ

Pattison:

with a sweet, cheerful spirit

Bayne:

the church, for the manner of her obedience, it is in four things

1. willing
2. constant
3. with fear and reverence (Hebrews 13)
4. in all things

### **“in all” or “in everything”**

Eph 5:24

Pattison:

in matters of domestic interests, her preferences and tastes, are to be subordinate to his

Lathrop:

when there happens a diversity of sentiment, and neither can impart conviction, the obligation to recede doubtless lies first on the woman

Col 3:20

Gill:

in things that are hard and difficult to be complied with, and which are disagreeable to flesh and blood

Col 3:22

Gill:

even in such things as may be difficult, troublesome, and disagreeable to the flesh unto them;

Titus 2:9-10

**Query: What does Paul mean by “in all”?**

Colossians 1:17-18 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. (18) And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that **in all things** He may have the preeminence.

All situations

Romans 8:35-37 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (36) As it is written: "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL DAY LONG; WE ARE ACCOUNTED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER." (37) Yet **in all these things** we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

2 Corinthians 6:3-10 We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. (4) But **in all things** we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, (5) in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; (6) by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, (7) by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, (8) by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; (9) as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; (10) as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but **in everything** by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; (7) and the peace of God,

which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:11-13 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: (12) I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and **in all things** I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. (13) I can do **all things** through Christ who strengthens me.

#### All spiritual gifts

1 Corinthians 1:4-7 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, (5) that you were enriched **in everything** by Him **in all** utterance and **all** knowledge, (6) even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, (7) so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 Corinthians 8:7 But as you abound **in everything**--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in **all** diligence, and in your love for us--see that you abound in this grace also.

#### All evidence of repentance

2 Corinthians 7:8-11 For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. (9) Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. (10) For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. (11) For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! **In all things** you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

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2 Corinthians 11:9 And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And in everything I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and so I will keep myself.

1 Timothy 3:11 Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful **in all things**.

2 Timothy 2:7 Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding **in all things**.

2 Timothy 4:5 But you be watchful **in all things**, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Acts 3:22 For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN. HIM YOU SHALL HEAR IN ALL THINGS, WHATEVER HE SAYS TO YOU.

1 Peter 4:10-11 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (11) If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that **in all things** God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, (23) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Colossians 3:18-22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. (19) Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. (20) Children, obey your parents **in all things**, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. (21) Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. (22) Bondservants, obey **in all things** your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

Titus 2:9-15 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing **in all things**, not answering back, (10) not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior **in all things**. (11) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, (12) teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, (13) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (14) who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own

special people, zealous for good works. (15) Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Revelation 21:5-7 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." (6) And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. (7) He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

1 Peter 2:13-15 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, (14) or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. (15) For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men--

Savastio:

the pattern is the church to Christ

-not like children to parents

-not like soldiers to sergeants

-not like servants to masters

voluntarily, sweetly, gladly

"in everything"

we do not take that to the extreme

crime

sin

lies

rebellion against God

do we take this seriously enough?

in all kinds of areas

in regard to

finances

education of children

finding of a church

this will express itself primarily where there is conflict

e.g. told to go out to eat and then get dessert, no problem submitting :)

**Ephesians 5:33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.**

JRY:

If we use the weakest word, "respect," instead of "fear" or "reverence," and then choose the weakest connotations of the word "respect," we end up far from what the Word of God means.

