

Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Sunday, June 5, 2022

Sermon Series: God's Plan and Purposes for Marriage

Message 6. The Wife's Role - Submission – Ephesians 5:22-24; Col. 3:18

Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: Every Christian is called to live a life of submission, submitting in obedience to God, and to one another within the Body of Christ. What does it mean to submit? How and why does this principle apply specifically to wives in relation to their husbands? This morning we will learn from Scripture what submission is and what it is not.

- I. The Principle of Submission – Eph. 5:18-21
 - A. Be Filled with the Spirit – vs. 18
 - B. Submit
 1. To One Another – vs. 21
 - a. Wives to Husbands – Col. 3:18
 - b. Children to Parents – Col. 3:20
 - c. Servants to Masters – Col. 3:22
 - d. Citizens to Government – Rom. 13:1
 - e. Congregation to Elders – Heb. 13:7, 17
 2. In the Fear of the Lord – vs. 21
 3. As to the Lord – vs. 22
 4. As the Church is Subject to Christ – vs. 23-24
 - C. Creation Order – this is God's plan and design – 1 Cor. 11:3
 1. Head of Man is Christ
 2. Head of Woman is Man
 3. Head of Christ is God
 - a. Co-Equal – not a slave or inferior
 - b. Voluntary subordination in order to fulfill an assignment
 - c. Practical subordination, not positional subordination
 4. The Fall Corrupted that Order in the Family – Gen. 3:16
 - a. The Fight for Control
 - b. God is in Control!
 - D. Why Do We Need to Submit?
 1. We are commanded to – vs. 21
 2. We were created to follow – Isa. 54:6; Rom. 3:23; Luke 9:23; John 12:26
 3. We need to be led – John 10:3; Rom. 2:4; 12:8; Rev. 7:17
 4. We are not always right
 5. All of life is to be lived in submission to God and the authority He has placed over us – Rom. 13:1; Col. 3:18; Titus 2:5, 9; 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13, 18; 3:1, 5; 5:5
- II. Wives, Submit to Your Own Husbands – Eph. 5:22-24; Col. 3:18
 - A. Submit to One Another – vs. 21
 - B. Wives, to Your Own Husbands – vs. 22
 1. If you are to submit to others, how much more your own husband? – MLJ
 2. As to the Lord
 - a. We obey Christ because we love Him – John 14:15; 1 John 5:3
 - b. If you do not submit to your husband, you are not submitting to God
 - C. Submission Defined
 1. Submission is not Subsistence, but Service – a helpmate
 - a. Equal To

- b. To Assist
- c. Partners
- 2. It is not Compliance, but Cheerful Cooperation
 - a. Not outward conformity
 - b. Voluntary, willingly
 - c. A wife “complements” her husband
- 3. It is not being a Doormat, but it is being Obedient
 - a. The wife is not her husband’s slave – one flesh
 - b. She submits
 - 1) Willingly
 - 2) Motivated by Love
 - 3) And this offers her Protection (authority is responsible)
 - c. He does not Dominate her, but should lovingly lead her
 - 1) Harsh vs. Gentle
 - 2) Compulsion (forced) vs. Love (a decision of the will)
 - 3) Domination is and leads to Abuse – emotional, verbal, spiritual, physical
 - a) Abuse is Unnatural – Eph. 5:25
 - b) Abuse is Sin – Psa. 11:5; 1 Peter 3:8-12; Mal. 2:13-17; Prov. 4:14-17
 - c) Abuse requires Church Discipline – 1 Tim. 5:8; 1 Cor. 5:5
 - d) An abuser is a heretic - Titus 3:10-11 (airetikos – causing division, schism, separation)
 - e) If Abuse rises to the level of being criminal, report it to law enforcement – Rom. 13:3-4
- 4. Husbands, Parents, Bondservants – Col. 3:18-21
 - a. Husbands Love Your Wives without Bitterness
 - b. Parents, Do not Provoke Your Children or Discourage Them
 - c. Bondservants, Obey with Sincerity of Heart, Fearing God

III. Follow Christ’s Example – Phil. 2:5-11

- A. Emptied Himself
 - 1. Took on the Role of a Servant
 - 2. Humbled Himself
 - 3. Was Obedient
- B. All for the Glory of God – John 17:4-5

Cross References

Colossians 3:18, 20, 22

18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

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.

Romans 13:1

13 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

Hebrews 13:7, 17

7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

1 Corinthians 11:3

3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Genesis 3:16

16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Romans 3:23

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Luke 9:23

23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

John 12:26

26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

John 10:3

3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

Romans 2:4

4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Romans 12:8

8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Revelation 7:17

17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Colossians 3:18

18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Titus 2:5, 9

5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

9 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back,

Titus 3:1

3 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,

1 Peter 2:13

13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme,

1 Peter 2:18

18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

1 Peter 3:1

3 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,

1 Peter 3:5

5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,

1 Peter 5:5

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

John 14:15

15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.

1 John 5:3

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

Ephesians 5:25

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Psalms 11:5

5 The Lord tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.

1 Peter 3:8-12

8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For “He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

Malachi 2:13-17

13 And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the Lord with tears, With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. 14 Yet you say, “For what reason?” Because the Lord has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. 15 But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. 16 “For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one’s garment with violence,” Says the Lord of hosts. “Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously.” 17 You have wearied the Lord with your words; Yet you say, “In what way have we wearied Him?” In that you say, “Everyone who does evil Is good in the sight of the Lord, And He delights in them,” Or, “Where is the God of justice?”

Proverbs 4:14-17

14 Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. 15 Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on. 16 For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. 17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence.

1 Timothy 5:8

8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Corinthians 5:5

5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Titus 3:10-11

10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

Romans 13:3-4

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

Colossians 3:18-21

18 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.

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 17:4-5

4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.