

Wives Submit to Your Husbands

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Colossians 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

Ephesians 5:22-24 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

I. The wife is to be in submission to her husband as she is to God.

“...as unto the Lord.”

- A. Women, or men, who want to contend about this issue are arguing and contending with God – not me.
 - B. Her submission, her love, her attitude toward her husband should be patterned after her submission, love, and attitude for God.
 - 1. Indeed, her submission to her husband reveals her true submission to God.
 - C. As our submission to God is based on love, so should the wife’s submission to her husband.
 - D. Our obedience to God is based on our love for Him, so should a wife’s obedience to her husband.
 - 1. If she is in submission to him there will not be orders given and commands obeyed, but she will seek to please him in all that she does – this is true obedience.
 - E. The wife’s submission has to do with her attitude and regard for her husband rather than her receiving and obeying commands.
 - 1. If the relationship is no more than him giving commands and her obeying, it is not what God intended here.
 - F. All of us submit; we submit to the laws of the land, to the IRS, to the boss at work, to the rules of games, the order of rank in the military or on the job – why is it that for a wife to submit to her husband, that she supposedly loves, is such an abomination?
 - G. Submission has to do with orderly arrangement.
- II. The submission of a wife to her husband does not designate superiority or inferiority, as far as worth or esteem, but it is the order of authority established by God.
- A. It is a pattern of the very relationship between God and man.
 - 1. When it is out of order the way of salvation is blurred and marred for the children and others who are watching.
 - B. Although there may be circumstances where the wife is mentally superior, or even physically superior to her husband she is still to be in submission to him.
 - 1. Circumstances never negate God’s Word or are an excuse for disobeying it.
 - 2. This is true in this case as well as all other transgressions of God’s Word.
 - C. It is in the area of government that the woman is to be in submission to the husband.

Genesis 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

- D. Man is very obviously designed to govern – the woman is very obviously not.
 - 1. That is a general statement of how it is, but that doesn't mean there are individual exceptions.
 - 2. "Women rule over you" is a statement in the Bible describing a degenerate society that is about to be destroyed by God.

Isaiah 3:12 As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.

- 3. Man's character, his physical, and his emotional design is adequate and obviously adapted for ruling.
- 4. Woman's character, physical, and emotional design is adapted to other things, where a man does not and can not function properly.
- 5. In many other things, woman may be his equal; in loveliness, and grace, and beauty, and tenderness, and gentleness, she is far his superior; but these are not the qualities adapted for government.
- 6. All his works to produce order in our lives and stability for the children as they grow up.
- 7. Any disruption of this order is detrimental to the salvation and the spiritual development of the children and all the family.

III. Man is to govern ...

- A. He is to make the decisions about the direction, the expenses, and the style of living of the family.
 - 1. If he is in his rightful place and doing his rightful duty he will make these decisions with love and regard for the needs of his wife and family.
- B. He is to be looked up to as the counselor, ruler, and judge.
 - 1. He must therefore be just, understanding, and compassionate toward his wife and children.
- C. The business of the family is to be at his discretion.
 - 1. He should make the decisions about buying, selling, spending, and saving.
 - 2. I can hear someone objecting about a circumstance where the husband is inept about managing money and business.
 - a) In a case like that the wife should fulfill her God-given role as an HELP MEET for him – she should HELP him, not take over for him.
 - b) She should not take over everything and just give him an allowance or tell him what he can and cannot do.
 - c) That is out of God's order and therefore ungodly.
- D. No family prospers where these principles of God's order are not honored.

IV. Therefore, a young lady's first priority in seeking a husband should be to make sure that he is a godly man who will govern his household well, and is capable of making the decisions, and leading his family in wise paths.

- A. Young people should be wise in the things of God and understand God's order before they even start considering someone for marriage.

- B. If a young lady marries a man who is unable to fulfill his God-given role in the home and in the marriage, then their whole life is going to be out of order and there will be dreadful consequences.
- C. The only way a man will be able to fulfill his God-given role is if he is a godly man.
 - 1. Your standard better be higher than just someone who has been “saved and baptized.”
 - 2. You can tell a lot about how he will treat you and feel toward you by the way he treats his mother and other women, as well as his father.
 - 3. In fact, you can tell a lot about how he will treat you and feel about you in the future by the way he treats other people and feels about them now.