

Wives, Submit to Your Husbands (Titus 2:5)

Christian families are bombarded with cultural pressures to pursue advances in education, career development and societal advancement at the expense of disciplining their own children.

Instead of parents disciplining their own children, many are giving that privilege to someone else who has less concern for their children than they do. Whenever possible, parents' first priority should be disciplining their own children.

1. Biblical submission is part of God's economy

- Submission has always been a currency of God's economy. There is order and submission in the Creation account (Genesis 1)
- Adam and Eve chose not to submit to the Lord and the result of that was a fractured relationship between man and God, man and his fellow neighbor, and between man and Creation.
- For the woman, one of the consequences of the Fall is that the man shall "rule over you" (Genesis 3:16). Before the Fall, Eve was under the headship of Adam but not ruled by him. When she sinned, she abandoned her subordinate role and assumed a position of leadership; she was made to delight in subordination. Now, she is going to struggle between her God-given desire to yield to her husband, and her awakened desire to exert her will against his. She will have an urge of rivalry and domination.
- It is not until the Lamb without blemish, the God-man Jesus Christ, enters the scene that we see His demonstration of perfect submission. Christ came to do the will of the Father (John 6:38)
- Even among the members of the Trinity, there is subjection, although all members are equal (ex: the Son submits to the Father, yet the Father never submits to the Son).
- Evidence of regeneration is submission to the Word of God (John 14:15).

2. Submission in marriage is not an issue of inferiority but privilege

Two Greek words to consider regarding submission and obedience:

Hupotasso: hupo (under) tasso (arrange in an orderly manner)

Hupakouo: hupo (under) akouo (hear)

"Hupakouo" refers to the relationship between an inferior and superior.

It is used in Ephesians 6:1 to discuss the order of authority; children must obey their parents. God has mandated that parents have authority over their children. This authority must be lovingly exercised for their well-being.

“Hupotasso” refers to the two parties who are absolutely equal in dignity and worth. It is the choice of one of the parties to willingly place themselves under the authority of the other. This Greek word is used in Ephesians 5:21-22 and also Titus 2:5.

“Hupotasso” in the marriage covenant means that the husband:

- Has no right to demand obedience from his wife as he does his children.
- Must view his wife as his equal in dignity and worth.
- Must give of himself to his wife because of what Christ has done for him.
- Must be an instrument in the hands of God to sanctify his wife.
- Never makes major decisions independent of his wife’s input and wisdom.

Headship means that the direction of the family comes from the husband, even if he is an unbeliever.

A God-honoring marriage will seek to “prefer one another” without compromising the husband as the head of the wife.

Why is a wife commanded to submit to her husband? So that the Word of God is not blasphemed.

3. A godly wife will encourage and witness through her submission to Christ

- A lack of submission can compromise the power of the gospel. This word dishonor comes from two Greek words: “blax” (sluggish, slow, stupid) and “pheme” (fame, rumor). It means to blaspheme, slander, misrepresent, or defame.
- There are two kinds of audiences and two kinds of households. The two audiences are believers and non-believers. The two households are either families where both are believers ~~or~~ where the believer has an unbelieving spouse.
- Unbelievers will judge the genuineness of your faith by the power of the Word of God in your life. To bring reproach on Christ is to paint a false picture (defame) of faith in practice. Believers will be encouraged as they witness a home that has harmony and is well-ordered.
- Godly women can win their husbands to Christ (1 Peter 3:1). Speak the Word of God to your unbelieving spouse. If he rejects the Word, make sure he cannot deny the power of the Word in your transformed life. Even though he may deny your pleadings, he cannot deny a gospel-driven, godly wife. In God’s economy, a godly life can win the hearts of the unbelieving.
- Your first commitment is to the Word of God, not your husband. However, he is still the head of the wife.