GOD'S ROLE FOR WIVES

Ephesians 5:22-24, 33B

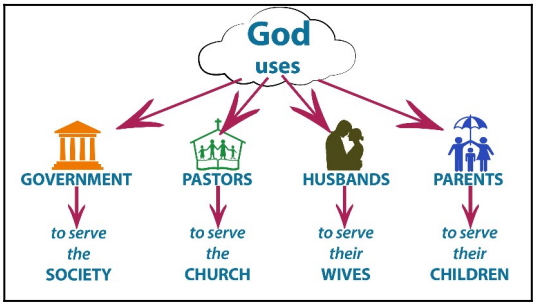
7-5-2023

Today, we continually hear the clamor of people demanding their "rights."
What we don't hear much is talk about the word: "responsibility!"

The basic domestic responsibilities as outlined by God, the Architect of Marriage are found in the following Scriptures:

Wives	Husbands
Ephesians 5:22-24;33b Colossians 3:18 I Peter 3:1-6	Ephesians 5:25-33a Colossians 3:19 I Peter 3:7

Basically, God's roles are as follows:
The Biblical role of the wife is to be a _____supporter_____.
The Biblical role of the husband is to be a _____leader_____.



Submission is misunderstood today.
God ordained that Husbands lovingly _____ their wives (by providing for them, protecting them, directing them).
And wives are to let them. This is the essence of submission.

A Biblical Definition of a wife's "Submission":
"Allow your husband to serve you with the role & responsibilities God gave him"

What is Biblical Submission?

What Submission is NOT

1. Submission is not just for women, but for _____believers_____
(Eph.5:21; Phil.2:3,4; I Pet 5:5; Rom. 13:1; Heb. 13:17)

   Examples of submission:

   - Believers to Christ (Eph.5:24)
   - Believers to each other (Eph.5:21)
   - Believers to Church Leadership (Heb.13:17)
   - People to Government (Rom.13:1-f)
   - Husbands to Christ (I Cor.11:3)

2. Submission does not make the woman the _____ of their husband.
Rather a "princess" to be cared for, provided for, led, protected etc.
3. Submission does not mean that the wife must be dormant, reclusive, or silent.
4. Submission does not mean she should never give advice or _____ -- her view are as equally valid as anyone's within the limits of God's Word (Prov.31:26; Acts 18:26; Judges 13:23)
5. Submission does not mean she is _____ to or holds an inferior position to the man (Lk.2:51; I Cor.11:3; Jn. 5:30; I Cor.12). The man's and woman's positions are different, but not inferior/superior.
Submission implies a difference of function and not of essence (Example: The Father is the Head of Christ (I Cor.11:3), but in essence is not superior but equal (Phil.2:6; Jn.10:30).

What Submission IS

Ephesians 5:22-24 may be outlined thus:

I. The command to submission (v.22)
II. The reason for submission (v.23)
III. The Pattern for submission (v.24)

What is Biblical Submission?

1. Submission is the wife's responsibility to place herself _____ (Headship) of her husband. (Eph. 5:23)

The word "submit" (hupotasso) is a military term or a term of rank, which means "to rank under," to take your place under" (Cp.Eph.1:22); to "subject yourself under the authority of someone else (Lk.2:51).

2. Submission is an <u>unconditional</u> _____, not an option for the believer (Eph.5:22)

Note: This mandate is not "outdated" (Submission has been a God-ordained principle since creation)
This mandate is not conditioned on the whether or not the Husband does his role. (Wives are to submit even when their husbands are unbelievers -I Pet.3:1)

3. Submission is a _____ decision on the part of the wife.

Wives are to choose to "submit themselves" The Husband is never told to make her submit!

4. Submission involves _____ as well as <u>action</u>.

That attitude is the inner beauty of a "gentle and quiet spirit" (I Pet.3:4)
This attitude is one of _____ for the husband's _____ (Eph. 5:23, 33)

5. Submission is a _____ matter.

You cannot be submissive to God without being submissive to your husband. God commands submission.

6. Submission is not a "_____ & _____" matter.

"in everything" (Eph.5:24)
"as it is fit in the Lord" (Col.3:18)

7. Submission to authority brings _____ & _____ to the wife

3 blessings that come to those who submit to authority (outline by Bill Gothard):

a. **You _____ in <u>wisdom and character</u>** (See: the example of Jesus as a 12-year old boy - Luke 2:49-52).

b. **You <u>gain</u>_____ from destructive temptations**

"The essence of submission is not 'getting under the <u>domination</u> of authority,' but rather 'getting under the <u>protection</u> of authority.'
Authority is like an 'umbrella of protection' ." (Gothard, Basic Seminar Textbook, p. 20)

c. **You receive <u>clear</u>_____ for life decisions**

How does God speak to us? Obviously through His Word the Bible. However, in the details of life, how does He direct us?

A wife who submits to her Husband is showing that:
She <u>trusts God</u> to work through the decisions of her husband.

How to be Submissive
when it goes against your old nature

1. Make sure you have been Born Again (regenerated) (John 3; Titus 3:5)
2. Believe that Submission is the _____ <u>of God</u>.
3. Be submissive to _____. If you won't submit to God's authority, you won't to any other authority.
4. Be _____ to the Spirit (Eph. 5:18) Only as He controls you will you be controlled.
5. Develop <u>new</u>_____ of behavior patiently! (New response patterns take time & Biblical instruction)
6. <u>Don't</u>_____ with people who discourage submissiveness. ("Evil communications corrupt good manners" I Cor. 15:33)
7. _____ <u>God</u> to work through the authority He has placed over you (whether you feel his decisions are right or wrong)

8.	Simply let your motivation for submission be _____.	Do it for God's glory (Titus 2:5)

GOD'S ROLE FOR WIVES

Ephesians 5:22-24, 33B

INTRO: The responsibility (role) of the wife is to be a companion and completer for her husband (Gen. 2). Today we will examine **HOW** she is to perform her God-given role.

ILLUS: how submission is misunderstood and rarely practiced in our society.

Beware of inadequate (or false) teaching, Satanic distortion, and worldly standards, etc. God's plan for the wife seems "out of date," offensive, contrary, and unbelievable for many to accept. Even some Christians.

However, God has called us to a new dimension of existence, a new way of thinking, acting, and living.

* **YOU NEED TO KNOW WHAT BIBLICAL SUBMISSION REALLY MEANS!**

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   Examples of submission:
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2. Submission does not make the woman the slave of their husband. Rather a "princess" to be cared for, provided for, led, protected etc.
3. Submission does not mean that the wife must be dormant, reclusive, or silent.
4. Submission does not mean she should never give advice or opinions -- her views are as equally valid as anyone's within the limits of God's Word (Prov.31:26; Acts 18:26; Judges 13:23)
5. Submission does not mean she is inferior to or holds an inferior position to the man (Lk.2:51; I Cor.11:3; Jn. 5:30; I Cor.12). The man's and woman's positions are different, but not inferior/superior.
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How Should the Church Submit to Christ?

The Church to Christ	**The Wife to the Husband**
Matthew 11:28-30	By being Teachable

John 10:27	By Following
John 12:26	By Serving
Philippians 4:6	By Requesting
II Peter 3:18	By Maturing

I. SUBMISSION IS AN OBLIGATION YOU CAN'T IGNORE

(Submission requires an obedient disposition)

"Wives" is not qualified. Hence, this truth applies to every Christian wife regardless of her education, intelligence, spiritual maturity, giftedness, age, experience, etc. (MacArthur, Ephes. p. 280).

"Submit" = (hypotasso) - a military term, meaning "to rank under", to take your place. Literally, the word means: "to put under" (Eph. 1:22 - "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church."

It means to subject yourself under the authority of someone else. (EX. Luke 2:51 - "And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.")

It also has the idea of "obey"-- [I Cor. 14:34 - "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law." Tit. 2:5 - "To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."]--
--although the specific word for obey is
(hypakouo) meaning to "submissively listen."

Contrary to public opinion, submission and headship are part of the order that God built into the world. It reflects the nature of God in the trinity (cp. I Cor. 11:3).
In the military, in the NFL, and at your job there are leaders and there are followers, or you have chaos!
Submission is not an option. For wives to submit is just as much as a command as the 10 Commandments, or the command to love God and your neighbor. It is just as much a command as husbands are to love their wives (v. 25) and children to obey their parents (6:1), and father are to train their children (6:4).

You can't say, "This command was only for Paul's day." or "We are living in a New Age." Today, if the women's libbers could re-write Scripture, it would read, "Husbands, submit to your own wives, as to the devil."

Submission was a God-ordained principle since creation.

You can't say, "My husband does not deserve it." or "I won't because he is not doing his role." There are no conditions!

Wives are to submit even when their husbands are unbelievers ("disobedient to the word") (I Pet. 3:1).

If you are unsaved, I don't expect you to obey this command. (You must submit to the Lord first) And you don't have the power to obey it as God intends unless you yield to the Spirit (v. 18).

You need to say: "I am going to submit to my husbands because it's right! Not because it's easy, convenient, or because he deserves it. Doing right is not always easy, fun, popular, etc. But it always brings God's blessings. You will never be happy until you fulfill the purpose for which you were made.

II. SUBMISSION IS AN ACT OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL (V. 22B)
(Submission requires a voluntary decision)

God says, "Submit yourselves" (middle voice).

He does not say, "Husbands, make your wives submit."
Nor does God automatically, force you to submit.

When you yield to the Holy Spirit, you will choose to submit.

I often wonder: wouldn't it be a whole lot better if God made us do right. I believe, however, that when we choose to do right, this brings a smile to God's face and pleases Him.

And your choice to submit will really show your husband that you love him and respect him.

III. SUBMISSION IS A DEVOTION TO ONE MAN (V. 22C)
(Submission requires a personal devotion)

"Own" = "idios", meaning: one's own, belonging to one's self.`

Submission is to be based on a close, loving, tender, and exclusive relationship.

Your own husband - shows the intimacy (closeness) that they have with each other. They each possess the other.

"Submit yourselves to your own husbands . . ." You are to devote yourself to submitting to only one man - your husband.

ILLUS: how we are only to submit to one God - the true God.

He does not say: "Submit to your boyfriend (although a submissive spirit should be in this relationship also). Many ladies submit until they get what they want!--their own private property (their husbands) -- then they stop submitting. This is wicked!

He does not say, "Submit to your mom and dad's decisions (you have "left" and now "cleft" to a new authority [Gen. 2:24]).

He does not say, "Submit to your boss" (although you should unless he would require something of you that your husband does not want you to do)

It is sad to see how submissive some ladies are to their boss at work, and the unsubmissive attitude they then show at home. ILLUS: A doctor at the clinic gave some instructions to a nurse, who nodded and replied, "OK, you're the boss." Then she laughed and said, "I don't even say that to my husband."

You show that you are personally devoted to your husband when you submit.

Aren't you glad he is "your own"?

Because he is, you are only to submit to him. By submitting to him, you are submitting to God!

IV. SUBMISSION IS A RESPECT FOR YOUR HUSBAND'S POSITION (V. 22D-23; V. 33)

(Submission requires a respectful disposition)

"As to the Lord" - you are to submit to your husband in the same way as you submit to the Lord.

How do you submit to the Lord? maybe you don't and this is your problem. A woman who won't submit to her husband also won't submit to Christ and vice-versa.

"As to the Lord" Turn to cp. I Pet. 3:1-6.

v. 1 - Holy lifestyle
v. 2 - Pure morals and "fear" (reverence)
v. 3 - Internal beauty (meek and quiet spirit)
v. 4-5 - Submissive obedience

The reason why you are to submit is because of the respect you are to have for your husband's position. he is your head.

ILLUS: of the respect we give people because of their position, not necessarily because of their personal character (teachers, law enforcement officers, elders, etc.).

Any animal (creature) with more than one head is a monster!

You can't both be head and expect to have harmony, unity, peace, etc. in your home.

Christ is head of Church (I Cor. 11:3; Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23).

The head gives direction and the body responds. A physical body that does not respond to the head is crippled, paralyzed, or spastic. Likewise, a wife who does not properly respond to the direction of her husband manifests a serious spiritual disfunction (MacArthur, p. 288).

NOTE men: The key to a Church body is Christ, and the key to the home is the husband. As the husband (father) goes, so goes the home. Men, we have an awesome responsibility.

Being the head, you are 1) the overseer (final decision is yours); you are the leader. 2) the provider (cp. v. 29 "nourish and cherish") (you wear the pants). If you don't

provide, you are "worse than an infidel."

Christ leads us as overseer and He provides for us!
Some women's problem is:
1) they want to lead their own lives sometimes
2) they want to provide for themselves

This independent spirit is pride! Let your husband do his job! and You do yours.

"Wives are no more to be co-providers, co-protectors, or co-leaders with their husbands than the Church is to have joint roles with Jesus Christ." (MacArthur, Ephes., p. 289).

1) A woman's hair-length (a covering) was a sign of submissiveness (I Cor. 11:2-16)

(NOTE: in Corinthian culture, a veil also showed submission, only rebellious prostitutes did not wear them)

2) A woman's job is to be in the home (espec. when there are children) "Keepers [workers] at home" (Tit. 2:3-5)

The word comes from the Greek = house
= work

I Tim. 5:14 - "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."

Your children need you, mom! For their emotional stability and security.

Even widows were to be cared for, and not expected to have to go out into the work place. A woman's place is in the home! I Tim. 5:8ff. (EX. Christ made arrangements for his widows mother to be taken care of - Jn. 19:26-27).

Most women work today, because husbands are not doing their job, or because they want to live on a "higher standard" of living.

V. SUBMISSION IS NOT A "PICK AND CHOOSE" MATTER (V. 24)

(Submission requires an impartial dedication)

As believers (in the Church - Christ's Body), we don't decide which of His commands we will obey. We don't have any choice in this area. We take our place under Christ's authority in everything.

The phrase "as to the Lord" (v. 22) shows that you are not to submit if he asks you to do something unbiblical or against the Lord. Just as the Lord would never ask you to do something immoral or wrong, neither should your husband. If he does, we "obey God rather than man."

EX. Daniel obeyed the government until it conflicted with Biblical conviction.

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

"Fitting" = that standard which the Lord accepts.

Never submit and obey something that is unbiblical (immoral).

CONCLU: Today, our minds are being bombarded with humanistic philosophy which is trying to remove all distinctions of authority in the government, family, school, and even the Church. People want independence from every external law and authority!

Why? Because they love their sin (darkness rather than light).

Each wants to do his/her own will.

Instead of nagging, criticizing, manipulating, sneaking, or preaching at your husband -- submit!

How far has your wrong behavior gotten you? If it has helped you, why do you still need to do it? Are you happy?

Recap. Main Points

How to be Submissive *when it goes against your old nature*

1. Make sure you have been Born Again (regenerated) (John 3; Titus 3:5)
2. Believe that Submission is the will of God.
3. Be submissive to God. If you won't submit to God's authority, you won't to any other authority.
4. Be yielded to the Spirit (Eph. 5:18) Only as He controls you will you be controlled.
5. Develop new habits of behavior patiently! (New response patterns take time & Biblical instruction)
6. Don't associate with people who discourage submissiveness. ("Evil communications corrupt good manners" I Cor. 15:33)
7. Trust God to work through the authority He has placed over you (whether you feel his decisions are right or wrong)
8. Simply let your motivation for submission be God. Do it for God's glory (Titus 2:5)

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