

WHAT DOES SUBMISSION LOOK LIKE?

Ephesians 5:21-33

Helen & I used to read Bible to each other. Not just any passage; we'd read Eph. 5:22-33 to each other.

Did you notice something about our reading?

We read wrong part—part written to other person.

v. 22 addressed to "**Wives...**"; v. 25 to "**Husbands...**"

22-24—none of MY business! —*between Helen & God!*

We should focus on what God says to **us!**

Submission is a biblical term people don't like!

God's Word clashes with our culture.

Eph 5:18ff speaks of being controlled by H.S.

*"Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery,
but be filled with the Spirit"*

Control of H.S. produces **evidence** of His control.

When God's Spirit controls us:

1. We praise God together corporately 19a

We come to worship God, not complain & criticize

2. We praise God personally from heart 19b

3. We give thanks for everything 20

4. We **SUBMIT** to one another 21-6:9

"Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ"

2 kinds of submission in passage:

1. 21 => Submission to one another

2. 22-6:9 Submsn to authority God established

Mutual submission is seen in 3 areas:

1. wives/husbands 22-33

2. children/parents 6:1-4

3. slaves (employee)/masters (boss) 6:5-9

Biblical teaching on submission

Biblical submission is result of Spirit's control

Power comes from God—NOT from us!

It is submission to God's authority

It occurs in context of mutual submission.

We submit our rights for one another, as Christ did—& seek each other's welfare

Concept of submission

NEGATIVELY—What it's NOT: misconceptions

1. NOT dictatorship—not king ruling over subjects

2. NOT inferiority

3. NEVER tool to get our way

=> Leads to “fights” over who will give up rights, for what other person wants!

4. CAN'T be imposed—We can't force submission

We're fixated on *control*! “He/she wants to *control* me!”

It *must* be voluntarily—we choose to submit

Jack Hayford: couple attends marriage seminar. Leader shows Scripture teaches men are *IN CHARGE*. When they get home, husband announces, “That’s the way it’s going to be from now on! You got it? After that, he didn’t see her for 2 wks. After 2 wks, *he could see her just a little, out of 1 eye!*”

5. NOT conditional—Each gives—not 50%, **100%**

1 Pet 3 Unbelieving spouse won over by gentle win-someness of believing spouse, when he sees your *quiet & gentle* spirit 2:18-20

We all want *our* way: “I’ll ..., when ... does ...”

Peter says that’s no big deal! *Anyone can do that!*

POSITIVELY

1. Recognizes need for order

Military term refers to *order*—someone must be in charge

III.—Military expedition

2. It’s *an attitude* v. Obedience—standing up on inside

Not external—serving the eye

What does submission look like in wife?

Interesting fact about Paul’s statement: We read it

22=>Wives, **submit** to your own husbands, as to the Lord

24=>Wives should **submit** in everything to their husbands

In neither verse is “**submit**” used in original!

Both cases translators supply it from context:

21=>“**submitting to one another** out of reverence for Christ”²²Wives, ... to your husbands, as to the Lord”

24=>“**as the church submits to Christ**, so also wives ... in everything to their husbands”

Prior statements set tone for exhortation to wife:

Context of *mutual* submission.

Parallel to church’s submission to Christ,

flows out of HIS love for the church.

Doesn’t *club* women with **submission!**

Never uses word!

Applies thought focusing on what God’s done for us

Wants us to focus on proper perspective!

So, what does submission look like in a godly wife?

A godly wife will...

1. Acknowledge that God has established her imperfect husband as leader in their home, as Christ is head over His church.

2. Respect her husband

33 “Let the wife see that she respects her husband”

Emerson Eggerichs: Love & Respect => “Crazy Cycle”

List of additional biblical descriptions of godly woman

What’s submission look like in husband?

Husband who treats his wife as Christ did the church:

1. Loves her 25a, 28, 33

²⁵*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church...*

²⁸*...husbands should love wives as their own bodies...*

³³*let each one of you love his wife as himself*

2. Gives up his desires for her benefit 25 “as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her” =>

3. Is totally committed to her 25

4. Seeks her welfare 26-27 “that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Concerned about her sanctification (holiness)

–purification–without spot or wrinkle

Husband who treats wife as his own body will:

5. Not hate (despise) her 28b-29a *He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh,*

6. Nourishes her 29b *[he] nourishes & cherishes it, just as Christ does the church*

Feeds–sustains her

7. Cares for her

WHAT’S MY RESPONSIBILITY?

1. Fulfill my part (Whether other one does or not!)

2. Motivate partner to submit

–as far as depends on me

Give them reason to respond submissively.

When H.S. changes heart, rebellion, angry rule change to submission to one another; we become like God, who gave self for us.