

Ephesians 5:21-33
Submission—To the Praise of His Glory!

“The mature woman acknowledges that submission is the will of God for her, and obedience to this will is no more a sign of weakness in her that it was in the Son of Man when He said, ‘Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God.’” (Elisabeth Elliot—Let Me Be a Woman)

Introduction:

God’s Hierarchy:

1. There is a power given to men and women:
2. For men:
3. For women:
4. But each of these strengths needs constraints:
5. For women:
6. For men:

Ephesians 5:21, “...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

1. Submission is not just for women:
2. Submission must have:

Ephesians 5:22-24, “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.”

Paul puts parameters in place for our protection and instruction. He gives women their limitations.

1. To the degree that we are submitted to the Lord Jesus is the degree:
2. That which is in line with what the Lord Jesus would ask of us is:
3. Because we can trust Christ as the head of His church:
4. Because the church loves and trusts Jesus:
5. It is this same attitude of trust that empowers wives to:

Ephesians 5:25-27, “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so 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.”

1. The action of Christ’s love for the Church is:
2. The action of a husband’s love for his wife is:
3. The goal of Christ’s love and the goal of a godly husband’s love is the same:

Ephesians 5:28-30, “In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of His body.”

1. A husband is to meet the needs of his wife:
2. A husband is to experience the same well being in caring for his wife that:
3. A husband is to give to his wife whatever will provide her not only with warmth, protection and security:
4. A husband who does not provide what his wife needs is not:

Ephesians 5:31-32, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”

1. Husbands and wives are to break one set of ties:
2. The new tie is more binding and permanent:
3. The marriage relationship is sacred because it is:

Ephesians 5:33, “However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

1. Paul exhorts husbands to give to their wives what women need:
2. Paul exhorts wives to give to their husbands what men need:

Conclusion:

Dig deeper: Look at these wives in the Bible and see where they did or did not respect their husbands: Sarah, Abigail, Esther, Ruth & Hannah