

***Wives, Submit to your Own
Husbands as to the Lord***

Ephesians 5:22-33

October 26, 2008

Three Foundational Thoughts:

1. The main topic of Ephesians 5:22-6:9 is submission, submission is a vital part of worship, and therefore in the coming weeks we are still essentially talking about worship.
2. Jesus Christ is Lord over everything and everyone, and therefore all things are in fact submitted to him.
3. When God calls us to submit to one another or to lead for the good of others, he's not asking us to do something he himself has not done.

Philippians 2:5-8

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

The Meaning of “Submit”

The word literally means “to arrange under” and therefore it means “to subordinate or to subject one thing or person to another.”

- This does not mean the one submitted is inferior in mind, spirit, talent, capacities, etc.
- Wives and husbands are equal in being but distinct in roles (see Gal. 3:28).

The Implication of “Own”

Three out of the four times the Bible commands women to submit to their husbands it inserts this word “own,” which implies that the Bible is not calling all women to submit to all men but rather that it’s calling each particular married woman to submit to her own husband.

The Husband's Authority

1. Notice the clause “as to the Lord.” This doesn't mean he is the Lord but that the wife is to submit to him in the way she would submit to the Lord.
2. Notice the strength of the ground for this call in verse 23, especially the implications of the word “head.” (See 1 Corinthians 11:3.)
3. Notice the term “in everything” in verse 24.

The Wife's Heart

The voice of a verb expresses the relationship between the action of the verb and the subject of the sentence.

Active: Jack got out of bed.

Passive: Jack was pulled out of bed.

Middle: Jack got himself out of bed.

The Wife's Heart

Active: to put someone in subjection or make them submit.

Passive: to be put in subjection or to be made to submit.

Middle: to willingly subject oneself or voluntarily submit.

** Thus, wives are being called to willingly submit themselves to their husbands out of reverence for Christ.*

Summary:

1. *To submit is to take the subordinate position.*
2. *Wives are only called to submit in this way to their own husbands.*
3. *The reason wives are called to submit in this way is because God has vested the authority of the marriage in the husband.*
4. *Therefore, wives are called to trust and respect God by submitting to his design.*