

Refuge City Church
Marriage & Family With Purpose — September 26, 2021
Part 2: “A Biblical Wife” (Ephesians 5:21-24)

Introduction

- What Wives need from their Husbands:
 - Listen to her, Talk to her, Study her, Encourage her, Prioritize her, Care for her, Lead her, Free her, Date her, Love her, Understand and Forgive her, Make time for her, Appreciate her, Show her affection and kindness, Share household chores and child-rearing responsibilities, Give her a day off now and then, commit to physical and emotional well-being, Be her friend and confidant, Trust her, Provide for her, Romance her, and... Other Duties as Assigned.
- **REMINDER** of our key words to keep in mind as we move forward
 - Unity. Humility. Gentleness. Patience. Grace. Holiness. Self-Control. Love. Thankfulness. Wisdom. Joy.
- **CONTEXT: Ephesians 5:15-20**, “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - We now add another key term that applies to all parties involved in Marriage & Family = Submission.
 - Today we focus on the role of a biblical wife.

Ephesians 5:21-24

“...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. 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.”

- Submission = literally to be subject to; submit self to; be supportive of.
- Obedience to the Lord in who He has given you to marry.
 - Jesus submitted to the will of His Father [**Philippians 2:7-8**, “Jesus emptied himself, by 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.”]
 - As we trust and submit to Jesus, we no longer submit to sin [**Galatians 5:1**, “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”]
 - We submit to the authority God places over us [**Hebrews 13:17**, “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”]
 - **Submission is a part of God’s created order in every aspect of life.**

- **QUOTE:** “We live in an ordered universe, in which there is authority and submission to authority everywhere [Rom. 13:1]. Authority and submission relationships are therefore natural and necessary to maintain order: God has authority over man [James 4:5]. Man has authority over nature [Gen. 1:28]. Husbands have authority over their wives [Eph. 5:22]. Parents have authority over their children [Eph. 6:1]. Governors have authority over those they govern [1 Pet. 2:13-14]. Employers have authority over their employees [1 Pet. 2:18]. Spiritual leaders have authority over those they lead spiritually [1 Pet. 5:2].” [Dr. Thomas Constable]
- So we submit to one another because we understand who gets the glory for doing so. Therefore the marriage relationship is defined by humility, for the sake of the other, and sacrifice, to do what’s best for the whole, not self.
 - Individuality vs. Individualism
 - We maintain our unique/distinctive roles in marriage, but we don’t live for ourselves.
 - **Philippians 2:3-4**, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”
 - **Colossians 3:23**, “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,”
 - We submit/partner/support one another out of reverence for the Lord. Not for our own prideful arrogance, or self-deprecation because we view our position in life as lowly.
- If that were the case, scripture would define the term from a humanistic perspective. This is a perspective that is self-indulgent, prideful, arrogant, oppressive, and divisive.
 - Key word reminder: Humility, Love, and Unity

Verse 22: *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*

- Wives, when you submit to your husband, you are doing so out of obedience/reverence to the Lord, not your husband.
 - **QUOTE:** “Submission is the proper response to sovereignly designated authority: both in the church-Christ relationship and in the wife-husband relationship.” [Wayne Grudem]
 - **CLARITY:** This is in context to marriage. Not generally speaking over society.
- According to scripture, this concept of submission involves four responsibilities.
 - I. Submit to the Lord.**
 - Everything we talked about last week, the character traits of walking in unity & love define your trust & submission to the Lord, bringing transformation to your life.
 - Jesus is your example
 - **1 Peter 2:21, 23-24**, “Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps... When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges

justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”

2. Submission requires respectful behavior

- Are you glorifying the Lord in what you do?
- How do you speak about your husband and children to others?
- Is your speech and conduct edifying to your spouse, family, and things you do?
- **1 Peter 3:1-2**, “Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.”

3. Submission requires Godly character

- **1 Peter 3:3-5**, “Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands,”
- Godliness seeks to draw attention to the Lord, not yourself.
 - **Matthew 5:16**, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

4. Submission involves doing what is right, unto the Lord.

- The moment there is coercion to participate in anything contrary to scripture, our freedom in Christ calls to obey God rather than man.
- This applies to any authority we are in submission to.

Verse 23: “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.”

- **1 Corinthians 11:11-12**, “Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.”
- Wives, you are submitting to an individual who has taken the responsibility to lead well, and is wholly accountable to the Lord his actions.
- Let’s go back to the first marriage
 - **Genesis 3:6-7, 9**, “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths... But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”
 - Husbands, there is God-ordained responsibility in leadership! Did you notice Adam’s position in this story? [**Romans 5:12**, “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man...”]
 - You are to look to Christ as your example
 - **Mark 10:42-45**, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles Lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among

you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- **QUOTE:** “The Scripture is the guide for faith and life in the Christian home. A husband’s authority in the home is derivative: as a servant of God, his authority comes from God. He is, therefore, subject to Scripture in all that he does, and has no freedom to guide his family in ways which contradict it. Should he clearly do so, individual members must follow God before man.” [James Hurley, Man and Woman in Biblical Perspective]
- Gentlemen, we’ll chat more next week...

Verse 24: “Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.”

- In everything we can look at in scripture regarding marriage, roles, expectations, communication, etc., above it all, there remains one solid focal point: **the mission.**
- This verse states, “**as the church submits to Christ...**”. That is the ultimate response we all have in marriage, family, and life.
- What is the mission?
 - **Isaiah 43:7** tells us that we were made for His glory.
 - **Jeremiah 29:11** tells us that God has a plan for our life.
 - **Ephesians 2:10** tells us that we were created for His good works.
 - **Matthew 28:19-20** gives to us our gospel purpose.
 - Understand that all this talk about marriage serves God’s great purpose to allow the world to see His love for His people manifested through Biblical Marriage.
 - As husbands lead their wives and homes in a Christ-like manner, as wives submit to their husbands in a Christ-like manner, and as children submit to their parents in a Christ-like obedience.
 - God receives the glory as proper marital roles give the world a picture of Christ’s love for the church.

CONCLUSION

- I heard one couple state, “We don’t spend time working on unity...It is a byproduct of serving the Lord together.”
- I like how one pastor stated the wife’s role of submission in the context of our mutual mission:
 - Both husband and wife are called to die to self – submission is the way the wife does it.
 - Both husband and wife are called to sacrifice – submission is the way the wife does it.

- Both husband and wife are called to see their marriage as a model of Jesus' relationship with the church – submission is how the wife honors that model.
- Both husband and wife are called to honor the order of creation – submission is the way the wife fulfills her place in that order.
- **Genesis 2:18, 24**, “Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him”... Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”
- In marriage, there is humility, unity, order, and missional purpose. Let's live that way!

NEXT WEEK: The husband's role in the context of marriage & family.