

Ephesians 5:21-23 - 21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

A. be subject to one another – Submission is a primary characteristic of a Christian. We are to submit continually to God, with reverence do we obey His will. We are to submit to those older than us(1 Pet 5:5), submit to the governing authorities(1 Pet 2:13,Rom 13:1-5), submit to the leaders of the church(Heb 13:17), to our parents and masters(Eph 6:1-6), and here to **“one another.”**

be subject – to subordinate, to line up under, - **gk.** hupotasso, 5293; to subordinate; reflexively, to obey:--be under obedience (obedient), put under, subdue unto, (be, make) subject (to, unto), be (put) in subjection (to, under), submit self unto.

This is a fundamental element in ALL Christian relationships and it is the basis for the whole passage from Eph 5:22- Eph 6:9.

James 3:17 - 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, **then peaceable, gentle, reasonable,** full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. NASB

This attitude of submission **“to one another”** provides an atmosphere of peace every time. If we submit to one another, we allow for each other’s shortcomings and do not demand our own rights, granting honor to one another for Jesus sake. This is dying to self. This is a major KEY to the marriage relationship.

Luke 9:23 - 23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, **let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.** NAS

B. in the fear of Christ – The motivation for our submission to one another is reverence or **“fear of Christ.”** When we submit for this purpose, we hit the mark every time. If we expect some human response, we are likely to be disappointed. But if we submit to reverence and obey Christ, we succeed every time.

Example: *If a wife is submissive to her husband so that he will be the loving leader, provider and protector he should be, she will be sadly disappointed in his human failure. This is an **improper motivation** for submission.*

Ephesians 5:22-24 - 22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. NASB

A. Wives, be subject to your own husbands - Here is the wives’ role in mutual submission. To **“be subject”** to your own husbands. The wife is to recognize and be subject to the God given authority of the husband, for God has appointed him as **“head of the wife.”** These terms describe the “role” of the husband and wife, not some God given right to “lord over” or “rule over” for the husband’s own selfish benefit. But in the loving attitude of Christ, he fulfills his God appointed role, to protect and to guide, to provide and nurture his wife and family. And for this the husband will give an account to God.

1 Peter 3:1-3 - 3:1 In the same way, **you wives, be submissive to your own husbands** so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. NASB

Titus 2:4-5 - that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, **being subject to their own husbands,** that the word of God may not be dishonored. NASB

Colossians 3:18-19 - 18 **Wives, be subject to your husbands,** as is fitting in the Lord. NASB

B. as to the Lord – The wife is to submit to the husband as she would to God himself. Anytime we subject ourselves to authority, it is for the sake of obedience to God. This

submission is to take place regardless of the husbands personal worthiness or spiritual condition. A wife who doesn't respond properly to her husband's direction manifests a serious spiritual dysfunction, it is surely sin against the Lord. Would the church treat Christ with contempt? On the other hand, a wife who responds willingly and lovingly, honors God, her husband, her family, her church, and herself. Submission is the beauty of a godly woman!

1 Peter 3:4-6 - 4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable **quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God**. 5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, **being submissive to their own husbands**. 6 Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear. NASB

C. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. – The husband is the head of the wife in the same manner as Christ is the head of the church. The sense is, she is subordinate to him; and in all circumstances - in her attitude, her dress, her conversation, in public and in the family circle--should recognize her subordination to him.

1 Corinthians 11:3 - 3 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the **man is the head of a woman**, and God is the head of Christ. NASB

D. wives should submit to their husbands in everything. – This statement makes it very clear the *extent* to which the wives' submission should be. However, the wife should not submit in the case of a husband who would lead his wife into sin, neither should she submit to a physically abusive husband. The goal of submission is to please and obey Christ. Wives who are unwilling to lovingly submit to their husbands are robbing themselves of fulfillment in marriage. The very thing they desire to have, they are in reality rejecting. Not only this, but more importantly a non submissive wife is disobedient and rebellious to God who commands the wife to respect her husband and submit to him **“in everything”** and **“as to the lord.”** This rebel behavior is truly a blight to femininity, and it dishonors God's Word.

Titus 2:4-5 - that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, **being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored**. NASB