

Me!?! Submit to Him!?!

Ephesians 5.22-24

BAD STUFF happens to Women – in ANCIENT World AND MODERN World

This week's NEWS > FATWA 64 Islamic State's Code for Sex Slaves

Women ISIS does NOT KILL, BRUTALLY ABUSE, Men Stay Righteous!

Won't have to LOOK FAR to see SCANDAL and ABUSE in Christian Churches

3 G's in ZGC > For Too Many Xtian Leaders > 3 G's = GOLD, GLORY, GIRLS

70% of those who live on LESS than \$2 a Day are Women

MOST Workplaces - Women Equally Qualified – or More! - PAID LESS

1st C Woman Jewish or Roman Court > NOT Considered Credible Witness

21st C Word of MAN Still TRUSTED More than WOMAN – think Bill Cosby

Ephesians 5 – 1st 2 words Apostle to Gentiles speaks DIRECTLY to Women...

v. 22 “Wives, submit...” > Woooo! So it's LIKE THAT is It??

Appears Even BIBLE is SLAPPING Women Down like REST of the World??

Many Women look at LESS than Perfect Husbands and ask Honest Question...

Me!?! Submit to Him!?!

Other EXTREME – Women fix IDENTITY and WORTH on Achievements

Shatter Stereo-types > Combat Fighters – Truck Drivers – becoming Daddy's

SUCCESS Achieved IF SALARY or STATUS is HIGHER than Man's

Clear > VALUE of Woman OR Man is Not their NET Worth or JOB TITLE

Submission in Marriage – NOT Reason for WAGE Inequality or Chauvinism

Say's Nothing about Being POLITICIAN or Professional Athlete or CEO

Paul INVITES Men & Women into Marvelous MYSTERY – BRIDE of X - ALL

For SOME – NOT Everyone! – Earthly Marriage PICTURE & Preparation

Paul offers ETERNAL Perspective – Where Gonna be AFTER YOU
 Can't > Keep up w/ Daily Grind – Beat Competition – Perform Highest Levels?

KINGDOM You ADVANCE Now is Kingdom where you'll Spend ETERNITY
 BEFORE Teaching on Marriage, Paul gives this COUNSEL to ALL Christians...
 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. Ephesians 5.15-17

TRUE XTIAN FAITH IS SHOWN IN RELATIONSHIPS - Faith Lived Out
 "not just ME AND GOD ALL ALONE" – part of Worldwide Family of Faith
 Bible rejoices INTIMATE Relationships – with God who Made Us & Loves Us
 Jesus has INTIMATE Relationships with Men and Women > Deep Relations
 Jesus had PURE Relationships with Men & Women > Not Gay or Fornicator

Today we find this HARD > INTIMATE = SEX, So it Must be WRONG!!
 Our Fear of Intimacy going South > Tell SINGLES they NEED to get Married!
 Today World DEFINES People by SEXUALITY – No SEX, NOT Real Person
 To be VIRGIN – be PITIED for All you MISSED

Miss Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Heartbreak, Guilt, Shame, Confusion

Warn Women & Men NOT to Talk to E/Other or esp. PRAY Together

If WANT to be INTIMATE > Really CLOSE > Must get MARRIED

Jesus and Paul enjoyed INTIMACY with Men & Women as Singles w/out SIN

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you. Romans 16.16

NORMAL, HOLY Intimacy in CHURCH: Single, Married, Widowed, Divorced

SEX is Not NEEDED to be HUMAN or to be INTIMATE in Xtian LOVE

If Marriage is seen as ONLY Place for Intimacy, it becomes IDOLATRY

Ephes 5 – Paul teaches about 3 Foundational HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

LOVE, Support, Encouragement, Sharing is VERY FIBRE of the CHURCH

Paul follows PATTERN > Traced all way back to ARISTOTLE 4th C BC

GREEK Ethical CODES – Husbands/Wives, Parents/Children, Masters/Slaves

Familiar FORM of Teaching – BUT Infused w/ RADICAL Biblical TRUTH

These Relationships are WITHIN Xtian Community & to Advance Community

Marriage is the institution from which all others come. The earliest education was done in the home; mothers and fathers with their children. From this basic instruction come all formal centers of learning, right up to the university. The • earliest health care was developed in the home, which led to clinics and hospitals. The home was the earliest center of government, the rule of the patriarch is the root of all forms of human rule. James Boice

1. What Must the Wife Do?

a. Submit v. 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

WORD "submission" - NOT = Subjection, Subordination, or Subjugation

SUBMISSION - simply means that the Husband is the Leader

Wife makes many Vital Contributions – Opinion Valued - Maybe Smarter!

FINAL DECISION is the RESPONSIBILITY of MAN - This is a Freedom!

ALL Christians are to SUBMIT to Authority over Them for the GOOD of Others

SUBMISSION does not LESSEN our Standing, it CONFIRMS our PLACE

This HUMBLE Attitude of Christ the SERVANT is MODEL for ALL Believers

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. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus
Philippians 2.3-5

1) In Christ we are Equal - Wives, Slaves, Kids – Rights and Responsibilities

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
2 Corinthians 5.17

ALL Stand LEVEL Ground of Cross, Sinners / All Risen w/ X in SALVATION

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
Galatians 3.28

2) In God we are not Identical v. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife

We're WONDERFULLY DIFFERENT - COMPLEMENTARY

Men and Women are MADE FOR EACHOTHER

FALSE PREMISE OF EGALITARIANS – ERASE, BLUR Any Distinctions

Women act in the same strident way in which men act. They have to be omniscient in the family, in the work place, in all they do. They have to appear more 'macho' than men with whom they now find they are in competition...the need is to look at Christ...Love dressed in humility will focus on the person of Christ and ensure that the way life is lived is for the Lord's glory. Paul Gardner

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EQUALITY AND ROLE

"equality of worth is not identity of role" John Howard Yoder

"I have often said that we must sharply distinguish between these two, the office and the person. The man who is called Hans or Martin is a man quite different from the one who is called Doctor or Pastor. Here we have two different persons in one man. The one is that in which we were created and born, according to which we are all alike - man or woman or child, young or old. But once we are born, God adorns and dresses you up as another person. He makes you a child and me a father, one a master and another a servant, one a husband and one a wife."
Martin Luther

b. In Everything 3 X's in Passage, Wives told to Submit – vs. 22, 24, 33

v. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

LANGUAGE of Headship 1 Corinth, Coloss, Titus, 1 Timothy & 1 Peter
Goes back to Abraham and Sarah and BEYOND them to CREATION Pattern

Submission fulfills Purpose of COMPLETING ANOTHER - 2 Become ONE

v. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

WE HAVE A SELECTIVE OBEDIENCE TO JESUS IN CHURCH TODAY
WANT DELIGHT of SALVATION - BUT DON'T WANT DISCIPLESHIP

Tithing, Worship, Keeping Tongue from Evil, Fervent Prayer

ROOT WORD OF "disciple" is DISCIPLINE

Right BEFORE Teaching on Marriage, Paul writes:

...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, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ Ephesians 5.18-21

HOW does Church Submit to Christ's Service?

Singing Softer? Looking Invisible? Hanging Head Down? Acting Dumb?

Hopefully NOT! Should GATHER All Intellect, Energy, Focus for His Glory
Submission is NOT about SUPPRESSING Gifts > STRENGTHENING Them

SUBMISSION is Not Keeping SILENT while Husband SINS

ABUSES Wife or Kids, Let Husband Lie, Sleep in During Church, have Affair

Wife is Called to help SANCTIFY Husband > Standing Up to HIS SIN!

So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him (*or her!*) it is sin. James 4.17

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies...Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her...Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Proverbs 31.10,28,30

2. How Can She Do It?

a. Voluntarily v. 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

During 11 yrs Living in KZ – Met many BRIDES who were KIDNAPPED!

KZ Man & Friends – Kidnap Young Girl – FORCED to become WIFE

Strangely OFTEN Results in HAPPY, STABLE, MARRIAGE!

MORE Often in World Today > WOMAN Chooses to Marry a Man

He gets Down on One Knee and ASKS > Her ANSWER is GAME Changer

SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP - Woman Choses to Enter Into – UNIQUE to him
Nothing in THIS Text, Anywhere in Bible – Every Woman Submits to Any Man

WIFE COMPLAINED ABOUT HER DRUNKEN, ABUSIVE HUSBAND

I asked her "did he have these problems before you got married?"

"YEAH, He was DRUNK and ABUSIVE ALL the TIME before MARRIED!"

NEVER MARRY A PERSON YOU THINK YOU NEED TO CHANGE!!!

OR WHO SAYS THEY WILL CHANGE - MAKE THEM PROVE IT FIRST!!

Many Women Sure EXCEPTIONS to RULE - You Don't Know My Husband!!

WE ARE NOT TO SUBMIT TO DANGER OR ABUSE - Ourselves / Children

Known WIVES Stayed ABUSIVE Men – Thought Biblical – KILLED Them!

HIGHEST LEVEL OF SUBMISSION IS TO GOD

"We must obey God rather than men!" Acts 5.29 – IF Conflict, GOD is RIGHT!

THERE ARE A LOT OF JERKS OUT THERE - Irresponsible, Selfish Men

Women who Give Themselves Sexually to Men – Support their Selfishness

IF WILL NOT OBEY GOD AND HIS STANDARD FOR MARRIAGE

Should NOT Expect to RECEIVE HIS BLESSING OF HAPPY MARRIAGES

Marriage is CHOICE – CHOOSE ONCE and CHOOSE WISELY

"the submission to, and respect for the husband, to which the wife is specifically admonished...is by no means the submissiveness of a pussycat or a crouching dog...Paul...is thinking of a voluntary, free, joyful and thankful partnership, as the analogy of the relationship of the church to Christ shows" Markus Barth

b. As to the Lord v. 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, *as to the Lord*.

v. 24 Now *as the church submits to Christ, so also* wives should submit

Let the wife not be blinded by all the inadequacies of her husband, but let her look on him as representing the Lord in her home. Henry Vander Kam

He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.
Proverbs 18.22

God DESIGNED Marriage to SANCTIFY the SPOUSES – Each more like Jesus
Process of Sanctification DIFFERS for Each Believer, and Each MARRIAGE

Every couple will have differing personalities, gifts, and situations. We are not obligated to some simplistic set of rules that determines who takes the garbage out, who washes the dishes, or how many hours outside of the home a spouse may work or play without crossing some biblical threshold of marital correctness...The infinitely rich and varied ways God dispenses gifts to bless his people should alert us to the futility and wrong of trying to make all spouses glorify one another the same way. Bryan Chapell

Many Ways WOMAN cannot WIN No Matter what she does with TIME –

Decide to STAY HOME > Criticized for NOT USING Talents and Skills

Decide to WORK > Criticized for Abandoning Husband and Kids

Decide to Work PART TIME > Criticized for NOT Focusing, Not SERIOUS

CRITICS in Church > Words should be PRAYERS for Couple to Find Balance

Nothing in Scripture or Experience says there are SIMPLE, EASY Answers

NOR is there a COOKIE-CUTTER that Makes all Christian Marriages ALIKE

We should be MOST CONCERNED about Pleasing > GOD 1st then SPOUSE

c. As Response: Wife LOVES Man who LAYS DOWN his LIFE for HER

v. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

BALANCE Man > Between Irresponsible Jerk & Domineering Control Freak

Woman > Give Husband SILENT Treatment or Use Words that SHAME him

HOME is Not ARENA where SPOUSES Engage in POWER-PLAY

Rather Home is to be Reflection of Heaven > See POWER of Holy Spirit!

A Christian husband has not been granted the privilege to intimidate or ignore his wife; a Christian wife has no right to diminish or shame her husband. Bryan Chapell

DUTIES Summarized in ONE Word – Husband LOVES / Wife RESPECTS

SUBMIT IS JUST ANOTHER WAY OF SAYING "LOVE"

LUST - Seeks to GET / Selfish // LOVE - seeks to GIVE / SELFLESS

MEANING OF SUBMIT? – Choice to Give Oneself Up to Another

BECAUSE it is IN THE LORD - IT MUST BE HONORING to THE LORD

BECAUSE IT IS TO THE LORD - IT IS TOTAL - ALL OR NOTHING

3. Why Must She Do It?

a. Creation: This is the Way God Made the World / God-given ROLES

"this is not chauvinism, this is creationism...what creation has established, no culture is able to destroy"
John Stott

HEADSHIP OF THE HUSBAND IS STATED AS A FACT

Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God...the woman is the glory of man. For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man

created for woman, but woman for man... If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice--nor do the churches of God. 1 Corinthians 11.3-16

WE ARE EQUAL BEFORE GOD - but We are Not Identical

"patriarchy, male dominance, male attainment are three universal realities... in no society, anywhere or at any time, have these realities been absent"

Professor Steven Goldberg

"All the claims so glibly made about societies ruled by women are nonsense. We have no reason to believe they ever existed"

Dr. Margaret Mead

"Whatever else women may do in the world, their chief and enduring hold on the esteem of the human family is attained by their excellence as mothers. She goes into the valley of the shadow of death three or four times in the course of her • existence and returns there each time, bringing a new life with her, does more for humanity than the writer of books, the opera singer, the fine artist, the skillful physician, the wise voter or the woman in public life..."

Adele Field, Missionary to Thailand and China

b. Fall - 1st SIN > REJECTION of GOD'S CREATION ORDER in GARDEN

Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning 2 Corinthians 11.3

Deceived > Adam FAILED to be PROPHET, PRIEST, and KING for his Wife

Prophet – Taught Command to Wife Clearly, Enjoy All Trees/Fruits but ONE

Priest – Lift her Up to be Strong in Face of Temptation and Doubt

King – Whaap! That Blasphemous Serpent with a Stick!!

WHY BIBLE TALKS ABOUT THE SIN OF ADAM - he was Responsible

sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men...through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners

Romans 5.12,19

FALL into Sin – Cataclysmic – Rest of History God's Reversal of CURSE

Husbands and Wives need to WARN Families / Kids DANGERS of SIN

I cannot tell how much I owe to the solemn words and prayers of my good mother. On Sunday evenings we children sat around the table as mother read and explained the Scripture to us. Then mother plead to God for us in prayer. I • remember her once praying, "Now, Lord, if my children go on in sin, it will not be from ignorance that they perish, and my soul must bear a swift judgment against them at the day of judgment if they lay not hold of Jesus Christ"

Charles Spurgeon

c. Salvation CHRISTIAN SHOWS they are a NEW CREATION in CHRIST
LETTER WRITTEN TO "saints in Ephesus" / REDEEMED / SPIRIT-FILLED
DISPLAY THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST IN OUR MARRIAGES - WITNESS
NOT THEORY – If NOT Experiencing POWER - DO NOT HAVE CHRIST!

It was PLACE of the Son – And GLORY of Son – to SUBMIT to the CROSS
Submission of Son Necessary to Accomplish GRAND Salvation of God
Jesus DIED for Sinful Wives, Husbands, and All their Kids!

FIRST PREACHERS OF RESURRECTION MESSAGE WERE WOMEN
Risen X pours Out HOLY SPIRIT > Husbands can LOVE, Wives can RESPECT
MAKING God known REQUIRES Selfless Submission of ALL His Servants

The church is called to be Light to the world, to take the gospel initiative, to intercede for the world, to be compassionate and loving to all, and to wage war against the 'principalities and powers'...None of this speaks of weak passivity, but of a wife who will take initiative spiritually and in other ways in the family, who will ask her husband how he is before God, and who will intercede in prayer for him and the children.

Paul Gardner

Ephesians 5²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 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. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.