



**In this issue:**

Submission, Marriage,  
and the Church p. 1

Restoring the Mission of  
Redeemed Manhood  
and Womanhood p. 6

## Submission, Marriage, and the Church

*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with*

*the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own 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 the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Ephesians 5:22-33*

SUBMIT TO ONE  
ANOTHER OUT OF  
REVERENCE FOR  
CHRIST.

—EPHESIANS 5:21



In the last part of chapter 5, Paul begins discussing how submitting to one another in the fear of God works out practically in our lives. He first discusses the relationship of husbands and wives, comparing their relationship to Christ and the church.

### Submitting

The word translated “submitting” is Strong’s 5293 - Transliteration: hupotassó; Definition: to place or rank under, to subject, mid. to obey Usage: I place under, subject to; mid, pass: I submit, put myself into subjection.

A Word Study gives this information - hypotássō (from 5259 /hypó, "under" and 5021 /tássō, "arrange") – properly, "under God's arrangement," i.e. *submitting to the Lord* (His plan). This verb hupotasso is actually found in verse 21 in the Greek and not in verse 22. “your own husbands” indicates the scope of this admonition. It is not to men in general but to the husband of the wife.

Someone may say, “What if the woman is not married?” If she is still under her father’s rule, then she should be submitting to her mother and father. If she is single, then this passage is not speaking to her directly, but there are other passages in the Bible that define God’s intended arrangement. 1 Corinthians 11:1-3 states; “You are to imitate me, just as I imitate Christ. Now I commend you for remembering me in everything and for maintaining the traditions, just as I passed them on to you. But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”

In both Ephesians 5:22 and 1 Corinthians 1:3 a form of the Greek word “gune” is translated “wives” in Ephesians and “woman” in 1 Corinthians. *Thayer’s Greek Lexicon* says that the word “gune” means universally, **a woman** of any age, whether a virgin, or married, or a widow. So, we would generally look at the context of the passage in which it occurs to determine its meaning.

The idea of submission to anyone is not a very appealing doctrine in our day and time. The doctrine of a woman being in submission to her husband has been called in question by some in the Radical Feminist Movement.

The feminist movement (also known as the women's movement, or simply feminism) refers to a series of political campaigns for reforms on issues such as reproductive rights, domestic violence, maternity leave, equal pay, women's suffrage, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. The movement's priorities vary among nations and communities and range from opposition to female genital mutilation in one country, to opposition to the glass ceiling in another. A glass ceiling is a metaphor used to represent an invisible barrier that prevents a given demographic (typically applied to minorities) from rising beyond a certain level in a hierarchy. Radical feminism is a perspective with-

in feminism that calls for a radical reordering of society in which male supremacy is eliminated in all social and economic contexts, while recognizing that women's experiences are also affected by other social divisions such as in race, class, and sexual orientation. (*Wikipedia*)

It is one thing to believe in equal pay and maternity rights, and it is something else to believe in eliminating male supremacy in all social and economic contexts. I have only delved into this subject because I believe it is important for us to understand the kinds of pressures our children, and we ourselves, are under from the cultural norms in our society. These radical doctrines that often are contrary to Biblical truth are championed in our schools and other institutions in our society. We must learn to differentiate between social movements that are sane and make sense and social movements that are a radical departure from the word of God.

We cannot deny that the Scriptures teach that a woman is to submit to her husband. We also understand that this admonition is given in the context of a husband who loves and cherishes his wife. It takes both the husband and the wife submitting to Christ in order for God’s will to be accomplished in this relationship of husband and wife. Notice that Paul said the wife is to submit to the husband “as to the Lord.” This further shows us that submission to the Lord is our first priority if we are to properly order our lives as God intends.

### **Husband Is Head as Christ Is Head**

In what sense is the husband the head of the wife? We have probably heard the joke that the wife tells about her husband being the head but she is the neck! I don’t believe this is the spirit in which we are to understand this passage.

Paul compares the husband's headship over the wife to Christ's headship over the church. He says the husband is to love his wife just as Christ loved the church. This isn't about power grabbing. It is about submitting. When the husband submits to Christ and follows the admonition of this passage, he will give himself for his wife.

Of course, there is another joke that husbands tell about loving their wives. One husband said that he loved his wife, and his love was an undying love! Another words, he loves her, but he wouldn't go that far!! Once again, these jokes point us back to the true spirit of this passage. This passage is teaching the wife and the husband to first submit to Christ and to his order for the home. When the home is ordered as God intends, the wife will submit to her husband and the husband will love his wife and give his life for her.

### **Christ and the Church**

This passage not only teaches about the relationship of husbands and wives, but it also teaches about the relationship of the church to Jesus Christ. Christ is the head of the church. There is only one head. Paul says that Christ so loved the church that he gave himself for her that he might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.

What is the washing of water by the word? The washing of water refers to Christian baptism. Hebrews 10:19-22 states: "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

This context of Hebrews 10 draws a comparison between the OT priests who washed in the laver outside the tabernacle before they went in to serve and the Christian who is baptized in water for the remission of sins and the Lord adds him to the church.

In 1 John 1:7 we read: "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." Christ shed his blood in his death, and when we die to sin, we are buried with Christ in baptism where we are cleansed by his blood.

We read in Romans 6:3-4: "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Revelation 1:5-6 states: "...and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Some have said that the "word" referred to here is the confession with the mouth by the penitent believer. This is a possible interpretation. It could also be the "word of truth" or the gospel of salvation. Remember Paul's words in Ephesians 1:13-14: "In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."

It is by the blood of Christ that the church is cleansed and is then presented as a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle. The absolute perfection of the church is prophesied here; but the manner of achieving this is left out of sight. It is revealed by Paul in Colossians 1:28. (Coffman)  
Colossians 1:27-29: “To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this *end* I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”

Paul says in Colossians that by warning and teaching every man in all wisdom, he may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. He doesn't mean that the men are perfect themselves, rather they are perfected in Christ according to 2 Corinthians 5:20-21: “Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

### **Husbands and Wives**

In Ephesians 5 Paul is comparing Christ's care and concern for the church to the kind of care and concern husbands and wives should have for each other. What should this look like?

Husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. The analogy which had been in Paul's mind as far back as Ephesians 5:23, is about to be stated emphatically here and in the following four verses. First, there is the practical consideration that: just as Christ provides for every need of the church, nourishing and blessing her in all times and places and by all means, so also the husband is obligated to make the care of his wife the principal

concern and most urgent business of his whole life. In loving her, he is, after all, only loving himself. (Coffman)

The husband is told that in loving his wife he is loving his own body, just as Christ loves his body, the church. We are members of his body, of his flesh and his blood. Paul refers back to what God said concerning Adam and Eve: “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

Here in Ephesians 5:31 Paul quotes verbatim the passage from Genesis 2:24, making it the Scriptural basis of the grand analogy between Adam I and Adam II, between Eve and the bride of Christ. (Coffman)

Paul here says of the bride of Christ, what Adam said of his bride, “bone of my bones ... flesh of my flesh” (Gen.2:23). Without the inspiration of one like Paul, people would probably never have known the magnificent analogy concealed in the creation story itself as a prophecy and prefiguration of the church. Paul had long understood the “mystery” mentioned here, having brought it to light by various earlier references to it. In 2 Corinthians 11:3, Paul pointed out that Satan's seduction of the bride of the first Adam suggested the seduction by Satan of the bride of the second Adam (the church). (Coffman)

Adam naturally provides the great type of Christ. Just as Adam was progenitor of all living, so Christ is the author of life in himself. As in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive. When Eve was formed, a deep sleep fell upon Adam, and Eve was taken from his side. In the redemptive act on the cross, the deep sleep of death came upon Christ; his side was pierced; blood and water came forth, these emblems of the two great Christian ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper, mak-

ing it possible to see (in a figurative sense) that the church came forth from the side of Christ. Satan beguiled Eve, and likewise the church, luring her into the great apostasy. There are extensive analogies in this, one of them appearing particularly in these verses, that being the oneness of Adam with his bride forming a prophecy of the oneness of Christ and the church. (Coffman)

Foy E. Wallace said, “Paul did not take it to mean anything; he said exactly what the great mystery is; The exalted view, both of marriage and of the church of Jesus Christ, shines forth in this text. The sacredness of marriage is seen in God's design of it, from the very beginning, to be a figure of the union of Christ and his church; and the glorious importance of the church appears in the fact of its having been in the design of God from the very beginning.” (Coffman)

Paul ends with this practical advice: Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife *see* that she respects *her* husband. What a wonderful picture of God's design and purpose for the home, husbands loving their wives as themselves and wives showing honor and respect to their husbands. When we have such homes for our children, we will not only have stable and productive homes, but we will also have a strong and vibrant church that will reflect the loving relationship of Christ and the church. With such a foundation in our homes and the church, we will have a nation that will thrive and be exalted in righteousness.

L Scott Gage  
Fayetteville, AR

Sources: *Burton Coffman Commentary*  
*Thayer's Greek English Lexicon*

*In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.*

*1 Peter 3:7*

*And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

*Genesis 2:23–24*

## Restoring the Mission of Redeemed Manhood & Womanhood

*“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.” Ephesians 5:22-24*

Before you react in any way, positively or negatively, toward the text above, please consider how profoundly unique these Bible verses of scripture are, along with those that immediately follow. This text is a form of inspired Bible writing that uses the same identical words to simultaneously teach two parallel Bible truths; powerful truths that are separate yet inseparable. To understand and value the truths expressed about Christ’s relationship with His bride, the church, is to understand and value the truths that describe the ideal husband-wife relationship, the origin of which is traced all the way back to the Genesis account of creation where the genius of God is credited for the design, purpose and harmonious order of all mankind, both male and female. The simplest way I know how to express our Ephesians 5 text is this: For wives – the way of the Church (Ephesians 5:22-24). For husbands – the way of the Cross (Ephesians 5:25-33).

In stark contrast is the unvarnished truth about the disorder, perversion and chaos that dominates modern secular culture, which so easily spills over into our own personal lives. How do you explain a culture where acts of violent rage, mass shootings, domestic abuse, etc., are common everyday occurrences? How did America become a society where the killing of unborn babies by legalized abortion and radical LGBTQ’ism is an accepted cultural norm? May I suggest this biblical answer. At the root of practically every sinful vice and perversion you can name in our culture today is the breakdown or rejection in one way or another of the God ordained male-female relationship in marriage. One of Satan’s ugly secrets about the attraction of sinful practices and how they become normalized in culture is this: *“Because of the weakness of your human nature...you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, **which led ever***

*deeper into sin.” (Romans 6:19 NLT)* Enslavement to sin spirals into ever deepening perversion, in which people give *“...themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, **with a continual lust for more.” (Ephesians 4:19)***

No wonder the very idea of “submission” stirs all kinds of negative reactions, especially within the modern radical feminist movement. However, it should be noted that the feminine submissive role is discussed multiple times in the New Testament without apology. The explanations given are never based on archaic tradition or culture but are based on the order of Creation and the Fall (1 Corinthians 11:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 2:9-15). The Bible offers no other plan. Biblically, it is never an issue of superiority vs. inferiority, but of function. There is nothing demeaning about this kind of submission.

For redeemed manhood, authentic manly love is modeled after Jesus’ love relationship with the church, which the Ephesians 5 text clearly expresses as being the way of the Cross. Because man’s role model for being a husband is Christ, the heavier burden of responsibility is placed upon the heart of men toward their wives. Consider carefully the “way of the Cross” in the following.

*“Husbands, love your wives, **just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy (sanctify), cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds (nourishes) and cares (cherishes) for it, just as Christ does the church--” Ephesians 5:25-29 NIV***

From some old Ephesians 5 notes in my archives, I found the following four points I want to share, including comments I added, about the meaning of Christlike manly love. (I doubt these points origi-

nated with me. I would like to give credit to whom credit is due, if I knew to whom I could give it.)

**It is a love that sacrifices. (Ephesians 5:25)**

“Christ gave himself *up*...” Men generally are more selfish than women and are bombarded with messages that promote irresponsible self-gratification and fulfillment.

**It is a love that initiates. (Ephesians 5:25)**

Who has the responsibility to initiate and “go first” in sacrificing, repenting, apologizing, or saying “I’m sorry?” The husband or the wife? Jesus is our model. “...while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

**It is a love that protects, purifies, and provides for. (Ephesians 5:26-27,29)**

Christian men are obligated to be the primary protector and provider for their wives and families. “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” 1 Timothy 5:8 To “nourish” is to provide sustenance necessary for life and growth to flourish. To “cherish” means to hold dear. There is an old quote that says, “The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.”

**It is a love that unifies. (Ephesians 5:28-31)**

Jesus’ oneness with His bride, the church, is the biblical model for redeemed manhood.

Imagine if this was the masculine and feminine character dominating our culture. Imagine the disappearance of domestic violence, child neglect, and fatherless children it would bring about. Imagine the decrease in violent acts of rage and mass shootings if men followed the way of the Cross. Imagine what would happen to the rate of illegitimate births and abortions if redeemed manhood and redeemed womanhood were the norm. Imagine the disappearance of “gender dysphoria” and

the demise of radical LGBTQ extremism that seeks to exploit the vulnerable brains of the next generation of our children and grandchildren, because a full display of redeemed manhood and womanhood has been impressed upon them, as in Deuteronomy 6:7-9 fashion. May this be our mission in the broken world in which we live, all to the glory of Christ.

Robert Teague

Duncan, OK

*Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.*

*1 Corinthians 13:4-7*



Volume 42 - Number 3 - May/June 2023

BC is published every other month. Send all inquiries, address changes and subscriptions to the editor: L Scott Gage, PO Box 3425, Fayetteville, AR 72702-3425 Voice 479-521-6809

Email: [Lsgage129@cs.com](mailto:Lsgage129@cs.com)

[www.basicchristianity.net](http://www.basicchristianity.net)