

SS, Marriage, M&F, Wives' Responsibilities

4/16/23

I. EVERY CHRISTIAN IS WIFE, CHILD, & SERVANT

In Ephesians 5:22 – 6:9, wives, children, and bondservants are commanded to submit to those that the Lord has placed in authority over them. In the larger context of the book, however, and in the larger context of Scripture as a whole, EVERY follower of Christ, including husbands, parents, and masters, are: Wife; Child; and Servant. 1) **Husbands** should exercise authority in the home as those profoundly aware that they themselves are under authority. 2) **Wives** should submit to their husband's authority, profoundly aware that their deeper submission is to their Celestial Husband, their heavenly Father, and their Master.

II. IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, THE EMPHASIZED DUTY OF WIVES IS SUBMISSION

Eph. 5:22-24 *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.*

Col. 3:18 *Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

Titus 2:3-5 *Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.*

1Pe 3:1-6 *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, ² when they see your respectful and pure conduct. ³ Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— ⁴ 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. ⁵ For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.*

III. 1PETER DRAWS ATTENTION TO SUBMISSION IN A HARD SETTING

1Pe 2:13-25

1. What was life generally like for followers of Christ under the Roman emperors, and for Christian slaves in relation to their masters?

2. How does the Holy Spirit motivate servants under unjust authority in vs. 18-25?

IV. 1 PETER 3:1-6

1. What's the first motive for wifely submission mentioned by Peter?
2. Why is the call to adorn "*the hidden person of the heart*" contrasted with a warning against focusing on external adornment?
3. Describe "*a gentle and quiet spirit*" in terms of what it's like and in terms of what it's NOT like.
4. Why is "*a gentle and quiet spirit VERY PRECIOUS in God's sight*"?
5. Verse 6 says, *Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.* How does the call to wifely submission relate to the temptation to be sinfully afraid?

V. EPHESIANS 5:22-24

Eph. 5:22-24 *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.*

1. The summons is to wives, not to husbands re their wives.
2. Wives are to submit to "THEIR OWN" husband (not to any other, nor to men in general).
3. Wives are commanded to submit, AS TO THE LORD.
4. Her submission is rooted in the God-given headship of her husband, a headship that reflects Christ's headship. The husband is under Christ, and Christ himself is under God (1Co 11:3).
5. Wives should submit IN EVERYTHING.

CONCLUSION:

1. Identify an exemplary biblical example of womanly submission. How does the woman exemplify submission?
2. What stands out to you about Christ's submission?
3. For the Christian wife, what are some of the blessings of submission?