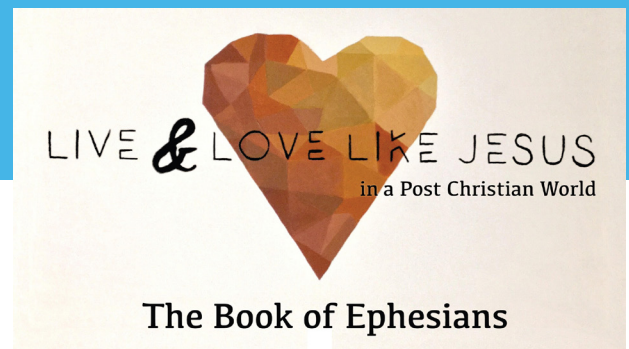


# Discussion Questions

April 16, 2023

## Ephesians 5:18-22

### Wives to your Husbands, as to the Lord



#### 1. Read Ephesians 5:21-24

What has been your understanding of submission in marriage?

#### 2. Discuss what the understanding of submission would have been in the time when Ephesians was written.

How this message would have likely been received by those it was written to?

#### 3. Read this quote by Dr. Klyne Snodgrass and discuss what Mutual Submission looks like today.

*"Our society emphasizes equality, but mutual submission is a much stronger idea. With Equality, you still have a battle of rights. Equality can exist without love, but it will not create a Christian community. With mutual submission, we give up rights and support each other. Mutual submission is love in action. It brings equal valuing and is the power by which a Christian community establishes itself... In the end submission is nothing other than humility and the self-giving love of Christ."*

#### 4. In verse 21, why do you think Paul puts the focus on submitting to one another "out of reverence/fear of Christ"?

#### 5. Read Ephesians 5:23-30

Without getting into personal opinion, what does the text actually say it looks like for a man to be the head of His wife?

Forgetting whatever you have heard or known before, if all you had to go on was this passage one passage, what would you think it looks like for today for a man to be the head of his wife?

In what ways is that different from what is traditionally understood in the church?

#### \*\*Bonus Questions for married couples:

- I feel most loved by you when you \_\_\_\_\_
- What is one specific way I could grow in humbly serving you in love?

**Ephesians 5:18-24 NIV**

*...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

**John 13:34 NLT**

*So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.*

**How should they live now that they are in Christ?**

4:1 - walk Worthy of your calling

5:1 - be imitators of God

5:2 - Walk in love, Just like Jesus Loved us

5:18 - Be filled with the Spirit

**Be filled with the Spirit By...**

Speaking to one another in Psalms, hymns & Spiritual Songs

Singing & Making Music with your heart to the Lord

Giving Thanks

Submitting to one another in Christ

**Submit to one another**

5:22-33 Wives & husbands

6:1-4 Children & parents

6:5-9 Slaves & masters

**Matthew 19:8-10**

*Jesus replied, "Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended. And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful." Jesus' disciples then said to him, "If this is the case, it is better not to marry!"*

**Women's Life in Greece and Rome**

"The two best days in a woman's life are when someone marries her and when he carries her dead body to the grave."

**Demosthenes**

"We have courtesans for the sake of pleasure; we have concubines for the sake of daily cohabitation; we have wives for the purpose of having children legitimately, and of having a faithful guardian for all our household affairs."

## **Xenophon**

"a wife might see as little as possible, hear as little as possible and ask as little as possible."

## **John Calvin - 16th Century Reformer**

"God has bound us so strongly to each other, that no man ought to endeavor to avoid subjection; and where love reigns, mutual services will be rendered. We can all develop a consistent attitude of submissiveness, actively submitting to others when it is appropriate, even as they actively submit to us on other occasion"

## **Galatians 5:13b NIV**

*..serve one another humbly in love..*

## **Philippians 2:1-8 NIV**

*..make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!*

## **Dr. Klyne Snodgrass - NIV Application Commentary**

"Our society emphasizes equality, but mutual submission is a much stronger idea. With Equality, you still have a battle of rights. Equality can exist without love, but it will not create a Christian community. With mutual submission, we give up rights and support each other. Mutual submission is love in action. It brings equal valuing and is the power by which a Christian community establishes itself... In the end submission is nothing other than humility and the self-giving love of Christ"

## **1 Corinthians 7:3-4 ESV**

*The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.*

## **Galatians 3:28 NIV**

*There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

## **Ephesians 1:22 NLT**

*God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church*

## **Ephesians 4:15-16**

*But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head - Christ. From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part.*

**Galatians 2:5 CSB**

*But we did not give up and submit to these people for even a moment,*

**Source: Institute for Family Studies - Mapping Family Change & Child Well-being outcomes**

24% of highly religious US marriages reported men committing spousal violence

23% of non-religious marriages reported the same

27% of men in highly religious patriarchal/traditional marriages had perpetrated spousal abuse, compared to 17% of those in highly religious egalitarian marriages.