

# Our Call as Husbands and Wives

Ephesians 5:22-33

May 14, 2023

Call as Believers  
Call as God's Church  
Call as Husband and Wife  
Next week – Our call as Children

**“The enemy wants to dethrone God, debase man, deny Christian morals, destroy the family and dominate the world.”<sup>1</sup>**

**“The radical feminists are but a tribute to the failure of men to be the kind of masculine men that they ought to be. We have a generation of miniature men, rather than mature, masculine men. And, what we see today is really a tribute to the failure of men. The divorce epidemic, homosexuality, sexual abuse, promiscuity, social awkwardness, emotional distress, and suicide, I think, primarily, are laid at the feet of the men. When Eve failed, God did not primarily blame Eve; God blamed Adam for Eve's failure. And, men must resume responsibility.”<sup>2</sup>**

**The enemy wants to destroy the family. Do you realize apart from the clear fact that the LGBTQ+ agenda is ungodly, at its undercurrent is to destroy the family unit, that which God designed.**

***<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. <sup>24</sup> Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.***

Word *submit*? **Hupotassō** is the Greek word from which we get the terms relating to submission in marriage. In the New Testament it usually appears as submit, subject, or submissive. The definition from two Greek dictionaries is given below.

**Strong's Exhaustive Concordance** -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.

**Thayer's Greek Definitions** - 1) to arrange under, to subordinate 2) to subject, put in subjection 3) to subject one's self, obey 4) to submit to one's control 5) to yield to one's admonition or advice 6) to obey, be subject.

Christ (Always) looks out for the best of His bride, the Church. Jesus humbly and willingly submitted to the Lord because He knew He could trust His Father. Men, our wives, if they are submitting to the Lord first, will have very little issue with submitting to our leadership if we are first submitting to the Lord's.

We are never more like Jesus than when we have a **submissive spirit** and we are never more like the devil than when we have a rebellious one.

Doesn't mean less valuable or less of anything.

Team/ Sports analogy:

Coach, Quarterback, receivers and linemen! God has made us men, not the Coach but the quarterback. We don't call our own plays and do our own thing, we listen and follow the Coach. When everyone does their part things work in unison.

***<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.***

Men, we CAN'T do this which is why the only way we can properly love our wives is to walk with and to submit to Christ. I would say for the woman (because of sin in general) submitting doesn't come natural, but it becomes much easier and willing when men are doing their part. Men, I would say both of God's commands (submit & love) are hard. For us men, God has placed on us an incredible task.

This is an impossible task on our own. In EVERY decision I make I am then to CONSIDER my wife.

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<sup>1</sup> Adrian Rogers

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

We must ASSUME responsibility. It has already been given to us, we must take responsibility for what has been given.

*But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.*

**1 Corinthians 11:3**

*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

**Philippians 2:6-8**

*<sup>26</sup> That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> 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.*

**Protect:**

Physically  
Spiritually  
Emotionally  
Needs

Submission should be a natural response to loving **leadership**. When a husband loves his wife as Christ loves the church (Ephesians 5:25—33), then submission is a natural response from a wife to her husband. But, regardless of the husband's love or lack thereof, the wife is commanded to submit "as to the Lord" (verse 22). This means that her obedience to God—her acceptance of His plan—will result in her submission to her husband. The "as to the Lord" comparison also reminds the wife that there is a higher authority to whom she is responsible. Thus, she is under no obligation to disobey civil law or God's law in the name of "submission" to her husband. She submits in things that are right and lawful and God-honoring. Of course, she does not "submit" to abuse—that is not right or lawful or God-honoring. To try to use the principle of "submission" to justify abuse is to twist Scripture and promote evil.

The submission of the wife to the husband in Ephesians 5 does not allow the husband to be selfish or domineering. His command is to love (verse 25), and he is responsible before God to fulfill that command. The husband must exercise his authority wisely, graciously, and in the fear of the God to whom he must give an account.

When a wife is loved by her husband as the church is loved by Christ, submission is not **difficult**. Ephesians 5:24 says, "*Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*" In a marriage, submission is a position of giving honor and respect to the husband (see Ephesians 5:33) and completing what he is lacking in. It is God's wise plan for how the family should function.

Commentator Matthew Henry wrote, "The woman was made out of Adam's **side**. She was not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be loved." The immediate context of the commands to the husband and wife in Ephesians 5:19–33 involves the filling of the Spirit. Spirit-filled believers are to be worshipful (5:19), thankful (5:20), and submissive (5:21). Paul then follows this line of thought on Spirit-filled living and applies it to wives in verses 22–24. A wife should submit to her husband, not because women are inferior (the Bible never teaches that), but because that is how God designed the marital relationship to function.<sup>3</sup>

*<sup>28</sup> So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. <sup>30</sup> For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. <sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> 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.*

**Worship Response:**

- Men are you loving and leading your Wife as Christ does the Church?
- Ladies, are you submitting to the Husband as to the Lord?
- Only way we can do either is if we know Jesus and are walking with Him.
- Homework discussion:
  - Men, ask your wife, "How can I better love you (as Christ loves the Church)?"
  - Ladies, ask your husband, "How can I better submit to you?"

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/wives-submit.html>