

## Connected

### Practical Christianity Part 1 – the Role of Submission Ephesians 5:21-24

#### I. Message – Practical Christianity Part 1 – Submission

##### a. Submission is required for all the church

- i. “21 Submitting yourselves **one to another** in the fear of God.”
  1. This attitude is not just for wives to husbands
  2. Everyone submitting to everyone
- ii. The Greek word is *hupatosso*
  1. It means to voluntarily rank yourself under someone else
  2. If you are really...
    - a. Filled with the Spirit
    - b. Filled with songs of praise
    - c. Thankful for everything
    - d. This naturally follows: submitting your will to others
      - i. This attitude is all throughout scripture
        1. 1 Corinthians 16:16 – others in the church
        2. Hebrews 13:17 – to leaders in the church
        3. 1 Peter 2:13 – governmental authorities
        4. 1 Peter 5:5 – to our elders
        5. James 4:7 – to God
        6. John 13 – even to those WAY below you
        7. **Philippians 2:1-8**
- iii. If everyone is submitting, who is “in charge”?
  1. The question actually reveals a misunderstanding about leadership
  2. **1 Corinthians 11:3**
    - a. Christ is the head of the man
      - i. Christ is The Son of God
      - ii. I am a son of God
      - iii. We are family
      - iv. BUT He is still clearly my master
    - b. God is the head of Christ
      - i. They are both God
      - ii. But Christ submitted Himself to the will of the Father

- c. Same essence, different roles
  - i. The man is also the head of the woman
  - ii. But they are the same in essence
  - iii. **Galatians 3:27-28**
  - iv. So where does “headship” or leadership come in?
    - 1. “Biblical leadership is taking the responsibility to meet the needs of the weaker”
    - 2. Headship (leadership) isn’t getting what the leader wants, it is doing what THE FOLLOWERS NEED

**b. In particular, wives are to submit to their own husbands**

- i. **“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands...”**
  - i. Today we also have confusion about the roles of men and women
    - 1. Marriage is losing its specialness
    - 2. It is no longer considered a “sacred vow” my many
    - 3. So, what are Christians to do?
      - a. Go back to the Bible
      - b. Lord, what are your first instructions for us?
      - c. **Pursue an attitude of submission as an act of worship!**
  - ii. **“22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.**
    - 1. It is a spiritual decision for wives with their OWN husbands (not subjecting all women to all men)
    - 2. She should have special respect for him over all other men
    - 3. It is to be done as unto the Lord
      - a. Your husband doesn’t have to earn headship
      - b. He was created to be the head
      - c. Women were created to be the heart
        - i. **Proverbs 14:1**
        - ii. Don’t foolishly tear down your house by tearing down your husband

**c. This is a divine order**

- i. “23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”
- ii. 1 Corinthians 11:3
  - 1. Note how each leader sacrifices for the follower
  - 2. Each follower, though equal in essence, submits to the leader

**d. What this looks like**

- i. First, it includes every aspect of life
  - 1. “24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.”
- ii. Second, it looks like respect
  - 1. “Reverence”
  - 2. V.33 – “and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”

**II. Conclusions**

- a. Cultivate attitudes and actions of submission
- b. Collaborate on building healthy marriages
- c. Celebrate marriages that get submission right!
- d. Commit to worshipping in all that you do
- e. Comply with the Word even when it is hard or “unfair”
  - i. A wise wife knows her husband must give an account to Jesus and wants him to succeed in this.
  - ii. A wise husband know it is hard to submit to anyone, so he makes it as easy as he can to be followed.