

Lesson 8

Read Ephesians chapter 5

Submit out of reverence for Christ

1. What is the command of verse 21?

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ

2. Review verses 10,17 and 21b. What are the three specific reasons for this submission?

To find out what pleases the Lord; to understand what the Lord's will is; to show reverence for Christ

3. Generally speaking, what is the worldly view of submission?

It's a sign of weakness - won't stand up for yourself

4. Consider who is being submissive in I Cor. 11:3. Is headship/submission a sign of weakness or inferiority?

<u>Christ</u>	<u>Man</u>	<u>God</u>	Not in the case of Christ
Man	Woman	Christ	and God; they are equal

5. Pride and stubbornness is the opposite of submission. How does God feel about pride according to I John 2:16 and James 4:6 & 7?

Comes from the world, not God
God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble

6. Look at the following passages and list what relationships are addressed concerning submission. (Ephesians 5:21, 22, 24, 6:1 & 5, Ro. 13:1, Heb. 13:17&18)

To each other; wives to husbands/ church to Christ/ children to parents, slaves to masters, everyone to government/ people to church leaders

God is a god of order. Even in nature things operate with an order and a preordained plan. God is pleased with the submissive heart because it shows a willingness to put stubbornness and pride aside. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the ultimate example of submission.

7. Read Philippians 2:3-11. Whose attitude are we to model concerning submission? (2:5-8)

Christ's

8. How is Christ's position described in Philippians 2:6?

Equality with God

9. What actions did Christ willingly take according to Philippians 2:8?

Humbled Himself - became a man - was obedient even to death

10. What was God's reaction to this? (Philippians 2:9-11)

God highly exalted Him, gave Him a name above all names, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord

The God-ordained role of the wife

11. Read Eph. 5:21-24 once again. In marriage, what is the order of authority that God has designed? (22 & 23)

Husband is the head over the wife

12. In Eph. 5:23b & 24, who is the husband compared to? Christ
Who is the wife compared to? Church

13. Considering the verses you just read, what is one reason that God would request that a wife be in submission to her husband?

To be a picture of the church's submission to Christ

14. Answer this question based on I Peter 3:1 & 2. What is the wife's role in the marriage if her husband is not a believer?

Still be submissive so that the husband will see her behavior and come to Christ

15. According to I Peter 3:3-6, what quality in a woman does God consider precious?

Beauty internally - unfading beauty of a gentle & quiet spirit

16. Read I Peter 3:7. What guidelines are given to the husband in this verse?

To be considerate of wife & treat her with respect

17. When did this "battle of the sexes" begin? (Gen 3:16)

Adam & Eve "Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you"

18. This model of submission is a model of the relationship between Christ and the church. Compare Eph. 5:23 with Eph. 1:22 & 23, Col 1:18, and I Cor. 11:3. Has this model become culturally irrelevant? (in other words, has Christ's relationship with the church changed?) NO

19. In what areas of life should a wife be submissive to her husband? (vs. 24)

In everything

The God-ordained role of the husband

20. What is the clear instruction to the husband in vs. 25 and who is to be the husband's example in this?

Love your wife Christ

21. How was the sacrificial love of Christ for the church demonstrated? (25b)

He gave His life

22. When Christ gave up His life for His bride, the church, how did He envision her? (vs. 26 & 27)

Holy, clean, radiant, without spot or wrinkle or blemish, but holy & blameless

23. To what degree should a husband love his wife? (vs. 28)

Like he loves himself

24. If this is fulfilled in the husband's life, how will he treat his wife? (vs. 29)

Feeds (provides) and cares for her

25. The word "cherish" is a tender, caring word that means to treat with tenderness and affection, to nurture with care, to protect and aid, to hold dear, to embrace with interest, to foster and to promote. Can you see these things demonstrated in how Christ cares for His church? **TOTALLY**

26. List some characteristics that are sometimes seen in the husband's relationship to his wife that would not be compatible with cherishing.

Abuse - verbal/physical/emotional
Neglect
Rudeness

Lack of interest
Disrespect
Being inconsiderate

The great mystery

27. Eph. 5:31 is a quote of both Gen. 2:24 and Mark 10:6-9. How is the relationship between a man and wife described?

United and one flesh

28. Consider I Cor. 6:15-17. At what instant does this become true in God's eyes?

At the point of sexual union

29. This mystery (Ephesians 5:32) is great because it represents the relationship of Christ and His bride (or the church).

30. Verse 33 reminds us again that the husband's responsibility is to love and the wife's responsibility is to respect.

31. What instruction in verse 31 shows us that this relationship takes priority over the husband's relationship with his parents?

For this reason a man should leave his father and mother & be united with his wife

God's design for marriage is meant to represent the relationship and the oneness that Christ desires to have with believers. He wants us to find joy, to feel completed, to live life together in such a way that the husband and wife operate as "one" in every area. This not only brings great fulfillment, it is also a witness for Christ to those around us and provides nurture and a godly environment for children. Our sinful, selfish, stubborn hearts and the godless society that we live in make marriage a fertile field for Satan's attacks. Keep praying and applying the truths of God's Word to your life everyday.

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." Rev. 19:7