

## Ephesians

### Wives Submit To Your Husbands

Ephesians 4:1-2 – As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 5:1-2 – Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:21-33 – Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church – <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

<sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

### Why Is Submission So Difficult?

#### Our sinful nature is selfish and wants to have control.

Genesis 3:16 – To the woman God said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

Philippians 2:3 – Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.

## God’s Design For Subordination And Authority

### God’s design for authority and submission is based on love, not dominance.

1 Corinthians 11:3 – I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of every woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

### What Does It Mean To Be A Submissive Wife?

1 Peter 3:1-5 – In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of you husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over <sup>2</sup> by observing your pure and reverent lives.

<sup>3</sup> Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. <sup>4</sup> Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight. <sup>5</sup> For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves.

#### -Love him with companionship

Genesis 1:18 – The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

#### -Love him with intimacy

1 Corinthians 7:3-5 – The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

#### -Love him with encouragement

Titus 2:3-5 – Teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

#### -Love him with respect

Ephesians 5:33 – Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Proverbs 27:15-16 – A quarrelsome wife is like the dripping of a leaky roof in a rainstorm; <sup>16</sup> restraining her is like restraining the wind or grasping oil with the hand.

