

**Heaven in Your Home:
The Role and Responsibility of the Wife
Ephesians 5:22-24**

INTRODUCTION

If you've been married longer than the length of your honeymoon, you know that marriage can be both **challenging and rewarding...in the same day!** Have you ever asked someone ***“What is the purpose of marriage?”*** Have you ever asked yourself that question? Some people see marriage as a romantic fusion of souls and bodies. Others see it as a responsibility or a chore (a commitment to perform a series of duties for another person). Still others see it as their best highway to happiness. These are all wrong perspectives on marriage.

Take this with you: a biblical worldview _____ and _____ that marriage, as defined by God, is the _____ of one man and one woman in a life-long _____ (pledge, promise, bond) to one another through which the covenant-keeping love between Christ and His bride, the church, is _____.

- Remember the _____

- Getting the _____ right

1. This passage describes marriage in the _____ of our _____ to Jesus Christ.

2. Equality is not the _____ of the passage. Function is.

3. The husband and wife are called to _____ by God.

4. The text teaches that there is a _____ given order in the marriage relationship and uses the word *“submit,”* which is an incendiary word in today's western culture. (Hughes, Ephesians, p. 179)

5. The _____ of this text have been _____ and _____ by *disordered and sinful men.*
(Hughes, Ephesians, p. 179)

Here's the main point: Paul projects a vision in this passage for a _____ Christian marriage. He bases his instructions for each spouse not on what is appropriate in Roman culture (or for that matter any culture), but on lessons that can be derived from the nature of the _____ between the church and Christ. _____ are called to _____ their wives in the way Christ loved the church, and _____ are called to _____ the leadership the leadership their husbands provide.

I. The _____ or _____ for the command (5:23)

Why should a wife submit (follow the lead) to her husband? According to the verse, the husband is the ***‘head’*** of the family. ***“Head”*** normally means leader, ruler, or authority as in 1 Corinthians 11:3, where God is described as the head of Christ, Christ is the head of man, and man is the head of woman.

- **Headship** also does not connote spiritual or personal superiority for husbands in the sense that it grants them the right of arbitrary, selfish, prideful, or capricious rule.
- **Headship, in this context, is an expression of _____ AND an expression of _____.**
The husband must lead with the kind of love that is willing to die.
- **A husband's headship is the divine calling for a husband to take the _____ responsibility for Christlike, servant leadership, protection, and provision in the home.**

II. The _____ or _____ of the command (5:24)

A. What submission _____ mean

1. **Submission does not mean agreeing with everything your husband says.**
2. **Submission does not mean leaving your brain or your will at the wedding altar.**
3. **Submission does not mean avoiding every effort to change a husband.**
4. **Submission does not mean putting the will of the husband before the will of Christ.**
5. **Submission does not mean that a wife gets her personal, spiritual strength primarily through her husband.**
6. **Finally, submission does not mean that a wife is to act out of fear.** (Piper, *This Momentary Marriage*, pp. 99-101)

B. What submission _____

Submission is the divine calling of a wife to honor and affirm her husband's leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts.

Two important takeaways:

- **Wifely submission does not suggest spiritual _____.**
- **Wifely submission does not mean slavish _____.**

A woman must never follow her husband into sin. Christ alone is her supreme authority, and the Holy Spirit enlightens her conscience as to what is right and wrong. **What the Scripture is instructing here is the disposition to yield in happy submission, the disposition to recognize and honor the husband's great responsibility to lead the home.**

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? ***Some practical advice...***

- **FOLLOW HIS _____!**
- **HAVE _____ IN HIM!**
- **LET HIM MAKE _____ DECISIONS!**
- **GIVE ROOM FOR FREEDOM TO _____!**