

CALL to PRAYER - Pray for a wife...that she (you) would strive to be a godly wife. Prov. 31:10

Eph. 5:22-24 - The High Calling of the Christian Wife

Intro - Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path." The Bible illumines our way and teaches us the way we should go. But the Bible's holy culture runs very counterculture to our own. God's ways are not our ways ^{Is. 55:8-9}. God's light is a stark contrast to the world's darkness. This section in Ephesians on practical Christianity has now entered the realm of marriage. This application section began with an admonition for us to walk worthy of our calling ^{Eph. 4:1}. We are to live out our Christian faith in every area of life - including our homes. This passage is very controversial in our corrupt society. Preachers are tempted to downplay or shy away from the Biblical standard of this text. Mark 8:38...Are we ashamed of Christ's words? We shouldn't be embarrassed of Jesus' words; we should implement them...not apologize for them but utilize them...not downplay them but obey them. To the ladies: This is what you were created to be as a woman and recreated to be as a Christian woman/wife. This teaching on submission will grade against your sinful nature but it is a beautiful expression of the new nature you are called to walk in. The high calling of a Christian wife is a calling to *godly submission*.

THE CALL OF SUBMISSION

- 5:21 The general call to submission for every Christian. Phil 2:3-5
- 5:22 The specific call of submission for the Christian wife
 - Submission = Gr. *hupatasso* - to place in order....to order under... to order in rank
 - Used for military rank authority/submission dynamic
 - Used in Bible for relationship between: Child/parent...citizen/government...church/pastor... church/Christ...universe/Christ...God the Son / God the Father. One in authority/other submissive
 - An authority/submission structure is woven into creation.
 - For any organization ^(family) to run well this must be in place. (anarchy without hierarchy)
- The created order was plunged into disorder when man sinned.
 - God's good design of marriage was corrupted and infected with sin & selfishness
 - Thorns, pain, frustration & battles were infused into once bliss of marital roles.
 - Gen. 3:16b Women now have a sinful desire to usurp their husband's role, and men have a sinful desire to be domineering with their wives. (a cruel rule)
 - Have you felt or seen the fury of this battle. Feminism & chauvinism are expressions of rebellion.
 - The battle of the sexes began with rebellion against God and resulted in the distortion of our created roles with each other in the relationship of marriage.
- Renewed image to reflect not reject
 - Eph. 4:22-24 the Christian now has a renewed nature and a holy calling to God's original good design
 - The Christian wife is to reflect the image of God in her role as a wife.
 - She is to glorify God by her submissive attitude at home with her husband.
 - Notice what it doesn't say. It does NOT say, "*all women submissive to all men*"
 - A wife is to submit to her OWN HUSBAND as to the Lord.
 - Her role is to rank herself under him and follow his lead. (1 Peter 3:4-6)
 - She has the high calling to be ordered under her husband as his support

THE PATTERN OF SUBMISSION

- The pattern of Head & Body Eph. 5:23
 - The analogy is *Head & Body*. The duty is *Love & Submit*
 - There is harmony in the body with the reciprocal/mutual beneficial roles
 - *The Head* cares for and loves *the Body* as it directs *the Body*.
 - *The Body* responds to and submits to *the Head*.
 - Marital Cerebral Palsy
 - A disconnect between head & body results in an awkward walk. (inability)
 - Headship is something **THAT IS**...not something that should be
 - 1 Cor. 11:3
 - The question is about *the Body's* connection & submission to *the Head*
- The pattern of Christ & the Church
 - Eph. 5:23-24
 - There is no role reversal in this relationship. Jesus is Lord
 - Christ is never said to submit Himself to the authority of the church.
 - It would be out of order and blasphemous to suggest this role reversal.
 - The pattern for marital roles is modeled by roles of Christ & His church. ^{1 Peter 3:5-6}
- The pattern within the Godhead
 - The submission/authority dynamic is derived from the Trinity
 - 1 Cor. 15:27-28 John 14:28 (John 20:17) 1 Cor. 11:3
 - There is hierarchy, patriarchy AND perfect unity & equality within the Trinity
 - Husbands & wives are to honor God by reflecting our Creators image.
 - Wives - your submission is how you reflect God's image - high & holy calling

THE PRACTICE OF SUBMISSION

- ❖ There are a lot of books on marriage, but the Bible is the best marriage manual.
 - The owner's manual is very practical. It tells us how and why we were made.
- ❖ Be a HELPER Gen. 2:18 God made the man first (head), then the woman to be his suitable helper
 - Wife, you are made to help your man thrive. He needs you by his side - Gen. 2:21-23
 - He can do more (and do better) with you than without you.
 - "*Behind every great man is great woman.*" Prov. 31:10-12
 - The Marriage Train - 2 engines pulling with each other not against each other
- ❖ Be a BELIEVER The most common moniker for the church is they are BELIEVERS in Christ
 - The wife is to *believe* in her husband. (Cheerleader or his detractor? ... Boo-bird or love bird?)
 - A wife can be her husband's biggest encourager or discourager. Prov. 12:4; 14:1
- ❖ Be a RESPECTER
 - Eph. 5:33 The husband's role/rank requires respect. ("Love & Respect" class)
 - Ask your husband if he thinks you respect him...he might just dare to reply
- ❖ Be a DOER of the Word
 - Titus 2:4-5
 - The world (and your own sinful nature) will tempt you to disregard God's Word by disrespecting your husband and refusing to submit to him.
 - The world cheers when God's word is maligned. BUT REMEMBER YOUR CALLING