

### Submit to One Another

[21](#) And further, you will submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

[22](#) You wives will submit to your husbands as you do to the Lord. [23](#) For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of his body, the church; he gave his life to be her Savior. [24](#) As the church submits to Christ, so you wives must submit to your husbands in everything.

[25](#) And you husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her [26](#) to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's word. [\[fn1\]](#) [27](#) He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. [28](#) In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man is actually loving himself when he loves his wife. [29](#) No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his body, which is the church. [30](#) And we are his body.

[31](#) As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." [\[fn2\]](#) [32](#) This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.

[33](#) So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Ephesians 5:21-33

[\(Audio Link\)](#)

As husband and wife we are to submit ourselves to one another in the fear of God. What does it mean to submit? Submitting to one another means to yield to one another. Husbands are to submit to their wives with sacrificial unconditional love, like Jesus loves the church. Women are to submit in authority to the servant leadership of the husband. Ephesians 5:22 does say Wives submit to your husbands, but husbands can't neglect the "submit to one another in verse 21. The chain of command that God has set up in the bible is Jesus is the commander in chief, the head of the home. The husband is under the authority of Jesus, and the wife is under the authority to the husband.

Some of the greatest ideas for your family will come from your wife. Men, listen to what she has to say. If you don't listen you will miss out.

1. What is your definition of submission?
2. How do we submit to the Lord?
3. List some practical ways a wife can submit to her husband?

### **Husbands are Called to Lead**

If you men don't take the leadership role in a marriage, then your wife will. When she does what God means for you to do, the result will be resentment and bitterness. It is the husbands responsibility to be the leader, even if it doesn't come naturally to you.

4. What is the biblical role of the husband?

### **Wives, Submit to your Husbands**

Many marital problems result from wives struggling for control and leadership in the household. The Bible is very clear, wives are to submit to and respect their husbands. Ephesians 5:22 and 33. It is important for your husband to listen to your opinions, but when he makes a decision he is looking for and desires your willing submission to go forward with his decision. Wives your goal is not being right, but doing right. Just as Jesus submitted to the Father, wives are to submit to their husbands. Submission is God's will for the wife as long as it doesn't compromise your walk with Jesus.

In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands, even those who refuse to accept the Good News. Your godly lives will speak to them better than any words. They will be won over [2](#) by watching your pure, godly behavior.

[3](#) Don't be concerned about the outward beauty that depends on fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. [4](#) You should be known for the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God. [5](#) That is the way the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands. [6](#) For instance, Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, when she called him her master. You are her daughters when you do what is right without fear of what your husbands might do. (1 Peter 3:1-6) ([Audio Link](#))

5. What is the biblical role of the wife?

6. How can you help your future spouse fulfill his or her role?

[3](#) Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. [4](#) Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing. (Phil 2:3-4)

7. How can you practically apply Philippians 2:3-4 to your marriage?

### **Don't Be Unequally Yoked**

The Bible doesn't give us license to marry an unbeliever.

[14](#) Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can goodness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? [15](#) What harmony can there be between Christ and the Devil [\[fn4\]](#) ? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? [16](#) And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people. [17](#) Therefore, come out from them and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. [18](#) And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:14-18) ([Audio Link](#))

If you are engaged to a non-believer you are headed down a very difficult path. The emotion of romance can blind you to the reality of your future. Marriage can become the closest thing to heaven on earth and your marriage can be a nightmare. The nightmares are compounded when a believer in Jesus marries an unbeliever.

8. What does it mean to be unequally yoked? (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

### **We Cannot Change One Another**

We all tend to think in due time we can change the things about or fiance that annoy us, frustrate us, or anger us now. We think if we take the role of Holy Spirit they will change into what I want them to be and then I will be happy. It doesn't happen this way. Only God can change a heart, and when He does the work He gets the glory. If we change our mind to align it with the Bible, then God will change our heart. If we don't change our mind, our hearts will harden.

9. Are there any spiritual areas in your life where you and your fiancé or spouse differ? Make a list and begin to pray about these areas.

### **We Are to Be Servants**

[1Pe 5:5](#) You younger men, accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, serve each other in humility, for "God sets himself against the proud, but he shows favor to the humble."

It is so important that we grasp the importance of being a servant. The only way we can submit to one another in love it is to be a servant and prayer, "Lord help me to do your will and not demand my own way. Show me how I can serve my spouse."

Foundational to becoming a servant of Christ is abiding in Christ. The fundamentals of abiding in Christ are prayer, reading the bible, being with His family, and telling people about Jesus Christ. These practices strengthen your relationship with Jesus. Therefore you will become more like Christ and Jesus came to serve not to be served and gave His life as a ransom for many.

After every wedding day come a marriage, and as long as God is at the center of your marriage, it will make a tremendous impact on the intimacy, success, and beauty of your marriage.

The only way we can begin to grasp the idea of being a servant in marriage is to allow the Lord to work through you to bless your spouse. Make it a habit to put your spouse first, even before yourself.

Men if you try to meet the needs of your wife before you meet your own needs and, Women likewise if you try to meet the needs of your husband before your own, your home will run much more smoothly.

The key is humility - Philippians 2:5-8 - [5](#) Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. [6](#) Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. [7](#) He made himself nothing; [\[fn1\]](#) he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. [\[fn2\]](#) [8](#) And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross. [9](#) Because

## The Two Shall Become One Part 2 - The Roles of Husband and Wife

of this, God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name that is above every other name, [10](#) so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11](#) and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ([Audio Link](#))

10. List some of the ways you have shown your fiancée or spouse the love of Christ in the past few months.

### **Love your Wife**

The Bible says: Ephesians 5:25 "[25](#) And you husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her"

This is one of the most important verses for husbands. Men were typically prideful and competitive to a fault. We can find ourselves competing with our own wives for our way, when we are supposed to be completing our wives through serving as Christ.

Galatians 2:20 - [20](#) I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

The more secure your wife feels in your availability and willingness to die to self for her blessing, you will find there is greater opportunity to participate in or move forward with the desires you want without the guilt and friction in the marriage relationship.

We are to love our wives as Christ loved the Church and laid down His life for her to give her new life, eternal life.

11. How can you love your wife as Christ loved the church? (See Ephesians 5:25-28)

### Lead By Example

Matt 20: 25-28 - [25](#) But Jesus called them together and said, "You know that in this world kings are tyrants, and officials lord it over the people beneath them. [26](#) But among you it should be quite different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, [27](#) and whoever wants to be first must become your slave. [28](#) For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many."

Men we need to be like our Lord and lead by example. If we want to be good leaders of our marriage and family, we need to reflect the character of Jesus who taught us how to serve by being the perfect example of a servant.

Are you showing your wife that you love her on a daily basis? Do they know you sacrifice what the world would say is rightfully yours for your wife's benefit? Men, you need to understand your wife, know her, figure out what makes her tick, what are her idiosyncrasies, when you get to know her you can dwell with her in knowledge. The only way to get to know her is to spend time with her and communicate with her.

1 Peter 3:7 - [7](#) In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat her with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. If you don't treat her as you should, your prayers will not be heard.

Spend time together - there are many marriages that live lives as married singles - this is not God's design, you are a married couple joined together, physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually.

Husbands initiate loving actions in your marriage. 1 John 4:19 says "[19](#) We love each other as a result of his loving us first." Be the first to admit wrong doing. Be the first to forgive. Be the first to take responsibility. Be the first to offer help. Be the first to say "I love you". Be the first to grab the Bible and read it to her. Be the first to do the difficult tasks of daily life. Be the first to...

12. What does it mean to dwell with your wife "with understanding" (1 Peter 3:7)?

13. Are you aware of the likes and dislikes of your fiancée or spouse? If so, name a few.

### **Love your Wife as You Love Yourself**

Ephesians 5:28-29 - [28](#) In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man is actually loving himself when he loves his wife. [29](#) No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his body, which is the church. [30](#) And we are his body.

Men make sure your wife is taken care of first. God has given us a precious gift in our wives and we need to be good stewards of this most precious gift. Wash her in the Word of God. Pray for and with your wife. Life together ought to be an act of worship unto the Lord.

Men get involved in your church, this is another way to lead by example.

If you lead and love your wife the way the Lord has instructed in Ephesians 5:21-33, you will have a peaceful and joyful home. Your wife will honor and respect you and your marriage will be a witness to others of the power of Christ in the center of a marriage.

14. What activities do you like to do together?

15. What kind of spiritual activities do you do together?

16. What does it mean to “reverence” your husband? (See Ephesians 5:33)