



The Godly Woman (Wife)

Week of August 15, 2021

Intro Discussion Question(s):

- *What have you learned most in your study of God's Word this week?*
- *What is the most godly marriage you have witnessed? Why?*

Read Bible Study Summary:

Submission is a vital concept when it comes to a person's relationship with God and with their family. Paul states that we should submit to one another out of reverence for Christ and then gives the specific example of a wife's submission to her husband as the church submits to Christ. He goes on to talk about the love a husband should have for his wife which should be like the love Christ has for the church. When we submit ourselves to the life changing power of Jesus Christ through His precious Holy Spirit, the first place things will begin to change is at home. Our marriages, our families and our priorities will change at home and will flow out as a shining light to the world. Perhaps Paul was being polite when he began this section by addressing the ladies first, giving attention to her unique roles and how submission applies to her, and more specifically in the marriage relationship.

Main Scripture

- *Read Ephesians 5:21-24; 33*

Why is Submission a Godly Characteristic of a Wife?

1. Submission Gives Reverence to the Lord (v. 21)

- Most scholars and commentators believe verse 21 is a bridge between the previous verses on Spirit filled living (vv. 15-20) and an introduction to what Paul tells us about mutual submission within the context of the family. "Mutual submission is love in action. It brings equal valuing and is the power by which a Christian community establishes itself."¹ We show reverence for Christ when we are willing to live humbly before Him, and submit to one another by putting others and their needs ahead of ourselves.

¹Kyne Snodgrass, *Ephesians. New International Commentary* (

- **Read Galatians 3:26-28** - 26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- **Ask Questions**
 - How does putting the needs of others above ourselves affect family relationships?
 - In what ways do you think mutual submission shows the value of others?

2. Submission Destroys Pride (v. 22)

- The word *submit* means “to arrange under.” It is a surrendering of control; a turning loose of selfish agendas and living in submission for the good of others. Submission destroys pride by placing the needs of others above your own.
- Unfortunately, this is one of the most abused Scriptures in the Bible. Some men quote it for the selfish reasons of wanting their wives to just obey them regardless of what they were asking or how they were asking it. Paul isn’t encouraging wives to submit to a husband’s tyrannical and unbiblical leadership, but to freely and responsibly follow the loving leadership of a faithful husband. God would never have a woman submit to a man who is abusive, self-serving, demeaning and seeking to use his wife in ungodly ways.
- Women are admonished in verse 22 to submit to their husbands as unto the Lord. She can submit to her Lord because she knows her Lord loves her and has her best interest at heart. She knows Jesus respects her and is never acting selfishly when He asks for her obedience.
- **Read Philippians 2:3-5** - 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus
- **Ask Questions**
 - What is the difference between submission and control in the marriage relationship?
 - In what ways have you seen godly submission destroy pride in your marriage? (Or if single, how have you seen this in a marriage that you have witnessed?)

3. Submission Places Responsibility Properly (v. 23-24)

- When we are submitted to Jesus as the head of the church and as our Lord, He is ultimately responsible for our salvation, our protection, and our provision for life. And when a husband assumes the leadership role in a marriage and family, he assumes responsibility for the safety, protection, provision and all around well being for the family. This verse certainly does not mean that the wife is responsible for nothing and sits around and does nothing, but it does mean that a huge burden is taken off her shoulders when she allows the husband to assume his role as protector and provider under God’s leadership.
- **Ask Question**
 - In what ways do you think a wife’s submission can encourage and strengthen the spiritual leadership of her husband?
 - What are the similarities between a wife’s submission to her husband and the church’s submission to Christ?

- **Ask Question** - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing right now? Is there some way our group can help you specifically?*
- Pray together over those requests.