

Eph 5:18–22 (ESV) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ⁽¹⁹⁾ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ⁽²⁰⁾ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁽²¹⁾ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. ⁽²²⁾ Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

1. We continue our look at the Spirit-filled life

- A. We've seen what it is – it is a life controlled by the Spirit – a life submitted to him
- B. Then we began to see the results of that kind of living before the Lord

What the Spirit-filled life will look like

- 1). We saw how it affects our relationship with God
 - a). There will be a song in our heart – we will naturally be worshipping him
 - b). There will be an attitude of gratitude – we will naturally be thanking him
 - 1a). This is the fruit of the Spirit exalting Christ and his truths
- 2). Now this week we continue with how it affects our relationship with others

2. The Spirit-filled life is marked by mutual submission to one another

Transition: Before we get into submitting to one another we need to know what that word means

I. SUBMISSION DEFINED

Eph 5:21 (ESV) submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

1. The Greek is *hupotassō* - a military word = to be under in rank

- A. It speaks of the way an army is organized
 - 1). You have generals, colonels, majors, captains, sergeants and privates
 - 2). Those on the lower ranks are obligated to respect those in higher ranks
- B. This doesn't change when those of lower rank are smarter – more talented – more gifted
 - 1). The private can be more naturally gifted than a general but he is still lower in the rank
Therefore he is still obligated to submit – Why? Because of the ranking

2. Spirit chooses this word carefully to speak of the results of the Spirit-filled life

- A. Because it is a life controlled by the Spirit – it lines up with God's Word
 - 1). Which means the Spirit-filled believer will obey this command to submit to others

Transition: So we are to submit – but to whom? And how do we do that?

- A. Let's begin by seeing what it doesn't mean – important

II. SUBMITTING TO ONE ANOTHER

Eph 5:21 (ESV) *submitting to one another* out of reverence for Christ.

What This Submission Doesn't Mean

1. Some use this to say there is no individual "leadership" in the body of Christ

"We submit to *one another*. I submit to you, you to me. Nobody is above anybody else."

- A. Therefore they eliminate any kind of leadership in the church
 - 1). You'll have groups set up home churches with nobody in charge = resulting in chaos
- B. The Bible is clear in its teaching – There ARE leaders

Heb 13:17 (ESV) Obey your **leaders and submit to them...**

1 Th 5:12–13 (ESV) We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you *and are over you in the Lord* and admonish you, ⁽¹³⁾ and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work.

- 1). The Bible clearly teaches there is a ranking that God has set up that is to be respected

- a). If that weren't true that verse in Hebrews is meaningless
- C. We see how God views rebellion against leadership – Example of Korah in Numbers 16
 - 1). Korah gathers a group of people to himself to rise up against Moses – challenging his leadership
 - 2). Their complaint: “We are all God’s people. We are all holy. So who do you think you are acting like we should listen to you?”
 - 3). Moses, Aaron and the rebels gathered before the Lord to get his opinion – they got it!
 - a). God said to Moses and Aaron separate yourselves from Korah and his group
 - b). The ground opened up swallowing the rebels – the point was crystal clear
 - 4). I have seen many rise up against the leaders God has called
 - a). Never seen the ground open up – but I’ve watched God dismantle lives

Thought: We have a bit of a problem here – something we need to work out

- A. Have military term commanding us to submit to those called to be over us = the rankings
 - 1). So the Scripture is clear there are leaders in the body that are to be submitted too
- B. But there is also a general call to submit to one another – regardless of the ranking
 - 1). Since this is a military term let’s pose the problem by using military rankings
 - a). How could a general who has authority and rightfully expect submission from a private
At the same time obey the command to submit to that private – *to the one another*
 - 2). Let’s bring it into church – how can a leader – Pastor – who has authority over the congregation
Also submit to the congregation – the one another – Hard for some Pastors *believe* me!
 - a). There are always those leaders that love power – even love intimidating

Transition: So how do we deal with this ranking that God expects submission too?

And humility so that those with authority will submit

Focusing on the Big Picture

1. We submit to one another by focusing on big picture rather than individual rights

- A. Military word so let’s use an example from the military
When you join the military what happens? They reduce your uniqueness
 - 1). You go to bootcamp looking very different from each other – soon you look very similar
You have a buzz cut – any facial hair is gone
You wear same uniform – get up at same time – eat same meals
- B. The country (big picture) becomes what is most important
 - 1). You have a common purpose to defend it – promote it - protect the country
The Marine oath: "I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."
 - a). IOW this becomes a priority in life – the common purpose of every marine
 - 2). You have this understanding of ranking – and a necessary submission to authority
 - a). That goes all the way from private to generals then to the president
 - b). All done with an understanding this order is necessary for that branch to function
 - 1a). Without ranking – leadership – it would be a chaotic mess

Thought: Our question again – in this ranking how would submission to *one another* work
This would be in the military – in a church – in a corporation

- A. The general should expect those under him to submit

But if he's wise he will also submit to them

- 1). IOW he will be humble enough to listen to that private and respond if they have a good idea
- 2). In Israel Yahuda said something very interesting – he was in the Israeli Secret Service
“Do you know why the Israeli army is so good? ***Because everybody's opinion is important***”
 - a). Privates know their opinions are valuable and they will be listened too
They know generals will listen and respond to their ideas
 - 1a). This encourages everybody to think about improvements – how to be better
 - 2a). This produces a very healthy atmosphere
 - b). He gave some illustrations of successful military actions that came from privates
- D. So you have the importance of ranking – there must be leadership or there will be chaos
 - 1). At the same time you have the necessity of submitting to one another
When a leader thinks he knows it all – wants to impose his authority always = power trip
 - a). That will always hinder of God's work – a bottle neck
 - b). I have learned so much from all of you – I sit and listen – I take notes
 - 1a). A power trip would forfeit all of that

Point: A healthy Spirit-filled church body will have leadership that isn't afraid to lead

- A. It will also have members who see the necessity of submission to that leadership
Who are willing to follow – listen and respond
- B. At the same time everybody sees that God's kingdom and glory is of utmost importance
 - 1). This makes us willing to lay down our own rights to advance this common purpose

Transition: Paul now tells us the motivation for this submission – here is the key for this whole section

We Submit Out of Reverence for Christ

Eph 5:21 (ESV) *submitting to one another* out of reverence for Christ.

1. This is the main point – the motive for all the submission in these verses

- A. We do this as an act of obedience to our Lord – it as an act of worship to him
 - 1). He told me to submit to others – therefore I'll do it because I respect and love him
I might not respect the person that much but I respect God so I'll do it
- B. Because I love him and want to see him honored – I listen to others – their ideas
 - 1). I don't throw my weight around – it is all about him NOT me

Transition: With all this in mind – we move from the general to the specific – from all to the wife

- A. I know this is controversial territory – frightening for some
 - 1). Praying Wednesday morning – for my back – my book
Then I said I was teaching on wives submitting to husbands – Tony added your burial
Your ***back*** – your ***book*** – because of what your teaching - your ***burial***
- B. The truth is I have no concern teaching this at all – why? It's in the Scriptures
 - 1). So if you don't like it – and approach me afterwards – let me give you a preview of what I'll say
“Talk to God – it's his book not mine – He wrote it I didn't – your complaint is against him”
 - a). I'm just a waiter bringing out the meal – trying not to mess up what the chef made

III. THE SPIRIT-FILLED WIVES SUBMISSION TO HER HUSBAND

Eph 5:22 (ESV) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

1. Before we get started – glad he said “submit to one another first”

- A. Hopefully that will stop the husband from use this as a battering ram - becoming a dictator in his home

- 1). Just as those in the church see the big picture
Submitting to one another for the health of the church and the advancement of God's glory
- 2). The husband and wife will do the same thing in the marriage
 - a). The husband is called to lead and will stand before God and give an account
 - b). But that will be a humble leadership – taking the wives opinions into consideration
 - 1a). Both see big picture - good of the family is more important than individual rights
 - 2a). God's glory is what motivates their actions

The Command: Submit to Your Own Husbands

Eph 5:22 (ESV) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

1. The principles we just learned are carried over to this verse

A. There is a divinely arranged ranking in marriage that is to be respected and responded too

Transition: But in doing that we need to see what this submission doesn't mean – get the proper balance

What Submission Doesn't Mean

1. Submission doesn't mean the wife is inferior in any way

A. God isn't insinuating by this that women are inferior and men shouldn't take it that way

- 1). Truth is - Christianity gave women dignity in a time she had none – just an object
 - a). Roman law said the man could treat the woman same as a slave – even killing her
He could have an affair – if she did – the death penalty – she had no rights at all
 - b). The man could divorce her for any reason – leaving her with no support – who cares
- 2). Christianity comes along and says – submit to one another – WOW!
 - a). Men love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it – Revolutionary
And divorce except for adultery is out of the question

Point: Submission doesn't mean you're inferior in any way – that your admitting to a weakness

A. Submission as we will see is simply seeing that God has set up an order of authority

- 1). You submit to your husband not as an admission you're not as gifted – talented – valuable
But as an act of submission to Jesus Christ as Lord
- 2). Bring your husband next week – we'll see you submit to amazing love

2. Submission doesn't mean the wife is to be silent

A. Bare-foot and pregnant in the kitchen – NO! Let's not bring back the 1950's

B. The wife has been given gifts the husband doesn't have – wisdom in areas he lacks – she's a helpmate

- 1). To refuse to value those things is to forfeit her help - an incredible gift from God

Point: The wife should never be afraid of offering her opinion – the husband never to proud to listen

A. I've had to say if Carri and I disagree

“After much prayer I believe the Lord is leading this way. I will stand before him and give an account, but as the leader of this family this is what we're going to do.”

- 1). But that isn't where the husband starts – he starts by listening – valuing her opinion
 - a). And when push comes to shove – if there is a disagreement He must lead
She is to follow – praying for him that he is getting it right

3. Submission isn't to every man only your husband

A. The Bible never commands a general submission of women unto men in society

- 1). Nor does it call our wives to submit to every man in the church – NO!
They should submit to leadership in the church and at work like the rest

- a). But another man is not the head of my wife – like some think
- B. This kind of thinking has made it very difficult for women in society
 - 1). Man is in control – who says? The Bible never says that in general society
 - a). There is nothing there that says a woman can't be a boss – that they're not equal
 - b). The best bosses I ever had were women
- 4. Submission does not mean submitting to abuse**
 - A. Many teach this and it's ridiculous – the wife is not called to be a punching bag
 - 1). If you're listening to the stream right now – if your husbands hitting you – get to a safe place
 - 2). I'm not saying get a divorce – reconciliation of the marriage brings God more glory
 - a). But get to a safe place where you can begin counseling
 - b). Begin working back together again from a place of safety
- 5. Submission doesn't empower the man to be a dictator**
 - A. The last part of this verse has been misused by some husbands

Eph 5:22 (ESV) Wives, submit to your own husbands, *as to the Lord*.
 "See you're to submit to me as if I were the Lord."

 - 1). IOW this submission is absolute and without question – just like we do with the Lord
 - 2). Well when you love her as the Lord loves you – she will have an easier time
 - a). But she his never called to treat you like you're the LORD

The Wife's Submission defined

- 1. To submit means you recognize someone has legitimate authority over you**
 - A. It means you recognize God has put in place a divine order in your marriage
- 2. The key: You submit to your husband as an act of submission to the Lord**

Eph 5:22 (ESV) Wives, submit to your own husbands, *as to the Lord*.

 - A. Here is the motive for the wife – you submit as an expression of submission to the Lord
 - 1). He has called you to do it – therefore in compliance to him
AND as an act of love and worship to him – you do this
 - B. IOW take the husband out of the equation – you are doing this primarily for the Lord
 - 1). He has told you to do it and you honor him by doing it!
Lloyd Jones: "There can be no more compelling motive for any action than this; and every Christian wife who is concerned above everything else to please the Lord Jesus Christ, will find no difficulty in this paragraph."

Thought: We are going to see next week the husbands part in it – much more extensive

 - A. But when the husband is seeking the Lord and doing his part
And the wife is seeking the Lord and doing her part
 - 1). You will have a marriage on earth that is working like the creator designed it
 - 2). Your marriage will be filled with joy and peace and the Lord's blessings
 - B. But as soon as either partner stops doing their part
 - 1). When the husband stops leading – humbly – gently – graciously and lovingly
 - 2). Or if the wife refuses to follow – you'll have problems – God's design is disrupted

Transition: With that said the next question is important

- 3. Is there any time the wife shouldn't follow?**
 - A. Yes! When the husband is leading in a way that violates clear principles of Scripture
 - 1). There are always limits to submission

- a). The submission your husband – your employer – the government expects
- 2). The Apostles set the example – when they were told to stop proclaiming Christ’s name
Ac 5:29 (ESV) But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.
 - a). I will obey the government until it demands what goes against my Lord’s teaching
 - 1a). Then (Like the Apostles) I must be willing to pay the cost of disobedience
 - 2a). I’ve lost a job over this – but I couldn’t compromise what I believed

4. Some misc. suggestions

- A. For the wife – you are called to submit to your husbands leading – crystal clear in Scripture
 - 1). If you want him to lead properly – PRAY FOR HIM – ask the Lord to guide him
- B. For the husband – since you are called to lead – crystal clear in Scripture
 - 1). Be humble enough to know you need help – value your wife’s input and opinion
 - 2). Back to the wife – be in the Word and pray so he will value your opinion
 - a). I always say I never seek advice from somebody who doesn’t read their Bible
Why would I? What kind of advice will I get? I want advice that is spiritual/godly
- C. For the husband and wife can I suggest something
 - 1). Both of you - keep the big picture in mind – everything for the glory of the Lord
 - a). This is the grid that every decision must be run through
1 Co 10:31 (ESV) So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
 - 2). If that’s what you both want – none of this should be a problem
 - a). Fail here and you will have problems - wanting to advance your agenda rather than God’s
 - 1a). Now all of a sudden that other partner is getting in the way!

CONCLUSION

1. The Spirit-filled life is a life of submission

- A. We submit to one another
 - 1). That doesn’t mean there is no leadership that needs to be yielded to – would be chaos
 - 2). But all including leadership is to see the big picture – we are working for the kingdom of God
 - a). We are not trying to force our own ways – we are not politicking for position
We don’t care who gets the credit – as long as God is glorified – I can lay my rights down
- B. Wives are to submit to her husband
 - 1). Not because she is inferior but because the Lord has set up a divine order
 - a). Our submission to one another and the submission of the wife to her husband
Is an act of obedience – an act of worship
 - 1a). We submit to others as an act of submission to the Lord

2. The final encouragement for this

- A. We do this believing God will bless obedience – YOU WILL SEE HIM
Jn 14:21 (ESV) Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, *and I will love him and manifest myself to him.*
 - 1). Obedience is the path to seeing God in a real way in your life – always worth it
- B. Do this trusting that God will take care of you in every way
Ps 23:1 (ESV) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
 - 1). When we submit to the Lord’s ways – he becomes an incredible provider for everything
 - a). Everything we need for contentment – satisfaction

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- C. This takes the fear of submission – if I submit to him will he ruin my life
 - 1). Trust God – he will bless your obedience – put it into his hands
 - a). He will make sure a husbands mistake won't ruin you – He is in control – trust him