

Text: Ephesians 5:22-24

Title: Husbands and Wives

ETS: Paul reminded the wives of their responsibility to submit themselves to their husbands.

ESS: Submission in the marital relationship is bigger than simply answering the question of who's in charge.

OSS: I want the wives to submit to the leadership of their husbands as a witness for Christ.

Question: Why is it important for wives to submit to their husbands?

Unifying Word: Reasons

INTRODUCTION

OUTLINE

- I. It is about obedience to the Lord. (vs. 22)
 - A. Paul told the Ephesian wives to submit to their husbands as though they were submitting to Christ.
 - B. The command for wives to submit to their husbands is all about honoring the Lord.
 - C. The command to submit has its limitations.
 - ***The principle is clear: we must submit right up to the point where obedience to human authority would involve disobedience to God. —John R.W. Stott***
- II. It is about order and not about value. (vs. 23)
 - A. Paul explained that the command to submit is based on God's created order.
 - B. All that God does has order, and that includes the home.
 - Genesis 2:20-24- ***The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.***
 - 1. Husbands have a responsibility to lead.
 - 2. Husbands have a responsibility to protect.
 - 3. Wives have a responsibility to support.
 - 4. Wives have a responsibility to submit.
 - C. This order does not mean that women are devalued, but treasured.
 - 1. Galatians 3:28- ***There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.***

2. 1 Peter 3:7- ***Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.***

III. It is about an opportunity. (vs. 24)

- A. Since Paul compared the relationship of husband and wife to that of Christ and the church, the marriage relationship is meant to be a living witness.
- B. When wives willingly submit to God's plan for the home they give a good witness for Christ.
 1. It is a witness to a strong walk with Christ.
 - 1 Peter 3:3-4- ³ ***Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—*** ⁴ ***but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.***
 2. It is a witness to the world.
 3. It is a witness to a wayward husband.
 - 1 Peter 3:1-2- ***Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives,*** ² ***when they see your respectful and pure conduct.***

CONCLUSION