

EMBRACING THE “S” WORD

What is True, Biblical Submission?

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"You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means."

- Inigo Montoya, The Princess Bride

The topic of submission is greatly misunderstood by both the world **and** the Christian.

Submission **means** -

yielding or deferring to another



In the New Testament, the term submission comes from a Greek compound word

hupó (under, beneath) + **tássō** (to set in a certain order, to arrange)

= **hupotássō** - to line up under, to place in order

The same word was used to describe soldiers under the authority of a commander.

There are different forms of the verb used

Passive - without consent; there is no voluntary acquiescence

(e.g., Creation submits to God, evil spirits submit to Christ's authority)

Active - to "subject oneself" or to willingly and consciously place oneself under another's leadership

Biblical submission **does NOT mean** -

- Servility
- Surrender
- Inferior in value

Romans 2:11

Galatians 3:28

"The fact that I am a woman does not make me a different kind of Christian, but the fact that I am a Christian does make me a different kind of woman." - Elizabeth Elliot

Biblical submission **IS** -

- Countercultural
- Practical
- Unnatural
- Commanded
- Voluntary
- Beneficial
- God's perfect, sovereign plan for our lives!

*"Satan knows that if we could see the Truth about biblical submission - **one of the most liberating principles in all of God's Word** - we would joyfully embrace it. He cannot afford to let us choose the pathway of submission, for when we do, he is stripped of his authority and rendered powerless in our lives and in the lives of those we love." - Nancy Leigh DeMoss*

The principle of submission is seen throughout Scripture:

- CHRIST submits to God, the Father

1 Corinthians 11:3, 15:28; Philippians 3:21

- ALL MANKIND is to submit to God

James 4:7; Hebrews 12:9

- The CHURCH is to submit to Christ

Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:15, 5:23-24; Colossians 1:18

- The CHURCH is to submit to leaders

1 Corinthians 16:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; Hebrews 13:7, 17

- CHILDREN are to submit to their parents

Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:20-21; Luke 2:41-52; 1 Timothy 3:4

- YOUNG PEOPLE are to submit to their elders

1 Peter 5:5

- SLAVES/EMPLOYEES are to submit to their masters/employers

Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22-24; Titus 2:9-10; 1 Peter 2:18-20

- CITIZENS are to submit to the government/authorities

Romans 13:1-6; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Titus 3:1-2

- EVERY CHRISTIAN is to submit to others

Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5; Romans 12:10

- WIVES are to submit to their husbands

Ephesians 5:22-24; Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:5; 1 Peter 3:1-7; 1 Corinthians 11:3

"Submission is a powerful, positive, and aggressive principle intended for every man and woman, whether single or married. It should begin in our single life and extend into marriage."

- P. B. Wilson

"Marriage is used in the Old Testament to express the relationship between God and His covenant people and in the New Testament between Christ and the Church. Tremendous heavenly truths are set forth in a wife's subjection to her husband, and the use of this metaphor in the Bible cannot be accidental." - Elizabeth Elliot

Ephesians 5:32 - 33

Submission in marriage was God's plan from "The Beginning"

The Blessing . . .

- Eve entered into a world of unblemished perfection

Genesis 1:31

- Eve was designed to be a "helper comparable" to Adam

Genesis 2:20-25; Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 11:3, 7-9

"The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved." - Matthew Henry

"Men and women, though equal in essence, were designed for different roles."

- John MacArthur

And the Curse . . .

- Eve was deceived when she wandered away from Adam's protection.

Genesis 3:4-5; 1 Timothy 2:14

- Eve was the first to disobey God's command, but ultimately Adam was held accountable for their sin.

Genesis 3:6; Romans 5:18,19

- Eve still had specific consequences for her actions:

*"To the woman He said, 'I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you will bring forth children; **Your desire will be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.**'" - Genesis 3:16*

Submission in marriage would become a struggle for women from that point on.

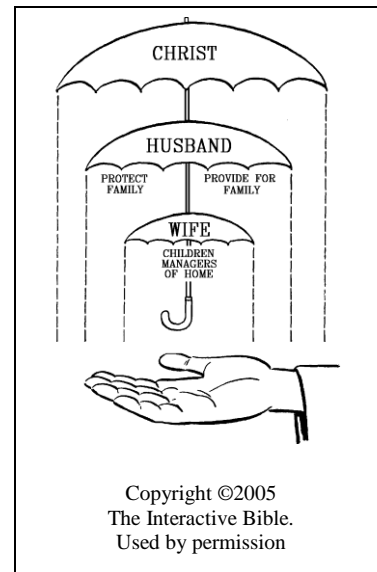
What does submission require?

- Obedience
Deuteronomy 13:4
- Love
1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- Sacrifice
Romans 12:1
- Humility
Philippians 2:5-8
Proverbs 3:34
- Trust
Proverbs 3:5-6
1 Peter 3:5-6

Why submit?

- Because God's ways are best
Isaiah 55:8-9
- Out of love and reverence to God
John 14:15; Ephesians 5:21-22
- To bring glory to God
1 Peter 1:14
- To be a witness to others
1 Peter 3:1-2; 1 John 2:3-6
- It is essential for spiritual growth
James 1:23-25

- To experience true joy
John 15:10-11
- To grow in beauty
1 Peter 3:3-4
- For your own good and protection
Deuteronomy 10:12-13
Romans 8:28-29
- Submission = freedom!



When are wives to submit?

In ALL things - *unless* it involves sin.

"It's hard for me to be a submissive wife, because my husband is . . ."

A sinner -

Not a believer -

Not leading/loving as he is commanded to -

Passive -

"For is it better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil."

- 1 Peter 3:17

"Faith recognizes that God can make a straight line with a crooked stick." - P.B. Wilson

What now?

- Confess your sin
1 John 1:8-10
- Commit to submit
Psalm 37:5
- Communicate with your spouse
- Cut the complaining
Philippians 2:14-15
- Convey the Truth
 To younger women
 Titus 2:1-5
 To your children
 Proverbs 22:6

Submission is a gift from our wise and loving God - embrace it!

Helpful Resources/For Further Reading:

Let Me Be a Woman by Elisabeth Elliot

The Excellent Wife: A Biblical Perspective by Martha Peace

Becoming a Titus 2 Woman by Martha Peace

Feminine Appeal: Seven Virtues of a Godly Wife and Mother by Carolyn Mahaney

A Marriage Without Regrets by Kay Arthur

Lies Women Believe and the Truth that Sets Them Free by Nancy Leigh Demoss

Helper by Design by Elyse Fitzpatrick

Liberated Through Submission by P.B. Wilson

Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism edited by John Piper and Wayne A. Grudem

When People are Big and God is Small by Edward T. Welch

When He Doesn't Believe: Help and Encouragement for Women Who Feel Alone in Their Faith by Nancy Kennedy