



Poema

“Relational Christianity Part 2”

Ephesians 5:21-33

As we study this passage, it is important that we let the text lead us along and not get ahead of the context of what Paul is teaching. The truth of **submission** and the use of the word **submit** must be noted and understood in order to avoid a misunderstanding and misapplication of the context.

Paul emphatically commands all believers to **submit** to one another in verse 21 – ***“...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”*** This is not an option; it is a command.

We know the best example given when it comes to being submissive is that of Jesus Himself. Although fully God in every aspect – the exact representation of the Father – the second Person of the Godhead was submissive to the Father (***cf. John 5:19-20a; 14:29***). Not only was Jesus submissive to the Heavenly Father, but He was also submissive to Mary and Joseph (***cf. Luke 2:51a***). **Submission** is a Biblical word that demonstrates the very character and nature of Jesus Himself.

In this passage Paul moves into the practical application of submission within the marriage relationship. He explains how marriages are to imitate and demonstrate God’s love.

➤ ***The role and priorities of the wife within the context of marriage. (Ephesians 5:22-24; 33b)***

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands...and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

The world would have one think the Bible teaches wives to be doormats for their husbands and stay home barefoot and pregnant. Consequently, some believe Christianity puts women in a subservient role to a man. Nothing could be further from the truth. Those inferences are lies perpetuated by the enemy to keep a woman from fulfilling her God-given purposes.

Marriage is not the ultimate goal. The ultimate goal for a woman is the same as that of a man...to know God and to bring Him glory.

John MacArthur comments...“Wives’ is not qualified, and therefore applies to every Christian wife, regardless of her social standing, education, intelligence, spiritual maturity or giftedness, age, experience, or any other consideration. Nor is it qualified by her husband’s intelligence, character, attitude, spiritual condition, or any other consideration.”

Culture has pressed a Christian wife into self-centered molds that can continually and perpetually lie to them about their husband and their marriage. While there are all types of reasons for a Christian wife not to submit to her husband, it should not be conditional; it is a command, “...**as to the Lord...**”

In obeying and submitting to her husband, the Christian wife is obeying and submitting to the Lord. It is the Lord who sanctioned the marriage contract. By no means is Paul implying women are inferior to men or that all women should be subject to men. Biblical submission of a wife to her husband is not forced; it is voluntary because she is making a commitment to obey this command, “...**as to the Lord.**”

Respect in the Greek (*phobetai*) denotes a deep respect...a respect not only because of the position of the husband as head of the family but also, and most importantly, because of her abiding love and awe of Christ.

➤ ***The role and priorities of the husband within the context of marriage. (Ephesians 5:25-33a)***

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife love himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of His body. ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself...”

Paul has much more to say to husbands than he does to wives...and for good reason. From leadership to love, the husband is the hinge pin for success in the family. Paul chooses the word, **agapao** to insist the love of a Christian man for his wife must be a response to and an expression of the love of God in Christ extended to the church. Christ loves the church, not simply as if it were His body, but because in fact, it is His body. Husbands are to love their wives not simply as they love their own bodies; they are to love them as one body with themselves.

The relationship between husband and wife is so intimate it gives the idea that they are fused into one single entity. For a man to truly love his wife is to love himself. She is not to be treated as piece of property. She is not to become a sex object or vessel of pleasure. She is not a cook with benefits. She is not a maid. She is not a surrogate mother for the man or simply the mother of his children. She is his wife...an elevated, honorable, and cherished position.

The idea here is for the husband to imitate and demonstrate the love of God to his wife. When the husband and wife are both imitating and demonstrating the love of God to one another, the marriage is not only a place of peace and comfort in the home, but it is also a spiritual dynamic that God uses in the lives of children. Godly marriages bring stability to the church and society as a whole.