

| • | “Submit,” “Head,” “Love”: Fightin’ Words?

New Vision, 11/7/2010, John Fickett

Eph. 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church — 30 for we are members of his body. 31 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” 32 This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

I. | • | Outline:

| • | **Main idea/heading/transition (by the way, not just a marriage issue):**
Eph. 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

| • | **In particular/for example:**

- A. | • | Eph. 5:22-33 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For...
- B. | • | Eph. 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
- C. | • | Eph. 6:5-9 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear... | • |

II. | • | Submit

- A. | • | **Middle voice: (Submit) “stand under”**
- B. | • | **A heart attitude**
- C. | • | **Compare the “right-side-up kingdom”**
 - 1. Psa. 18:27 You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.
 - 2. Prov. 3:34 He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.
 - 3. Is. 66:2“This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.
 - 4. Mic. 6:8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
 - 5. Matt. 18:4 Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
 - 6. Matt. 23:12 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.
 - 7. Rom. 12:10Honor one another above yourselves.
 - 8. Phil. 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

9. Phil. 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
10. James 1:9 The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position.
11. James 4:6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
12. James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.
13. 1Pet. 3:8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.
14. 1Pet. 5:2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers — not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.
15. 1Pet. 5:5 Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

D. [] "Submit," vs. "obey"— [] overlapping, but not identical

E. Christians live in a [] network of submissive relationships []

F. [] Peter's advice (1 Pet 2:13; [] Acts 4:19)

III. [] For the husband is head... []

A. [] Compare Eph 1:22

B. [] A metaphor.

C. [] Whatever it means, it's the main reason for the wife to submit. It parallels in some way the relationship of Christ to the church.

D. [] Always seems to relate to authority.

E. [] Transition []

F. [] The JF definition: The buck-stops-here responsibility and authority that enables a self-sacrificial, limitless commitment to the good of those over whom one is head.

G. [] Stay tuned...

H. [] Doesn't mean:

1. [] Makes all decisions
2. [] Doesn't receive input from his wife
3. [] Doesn't value his wife's gifts and (sometimes superior) abilities

I. [] The Jesus-style head:

1. [] Lives a life of submission to authority.
2. [] Doesn't get a kick out of bossing others around.
3. [] Doesn't "Lord it over" others (domineer). Doesn't demand submission.
4. [] Serves, provides for, cherishes, builds up, those he leads.
5. [] But does lead! Makes sure there is initiative, bases covered, ready to answer for well-being of wife and family. Willing to make final decisions as necessary. Takes responsibility for family outcome.
6. [] Never, ever quits. Doesn't have any if's.

IV. | • | "Submit," "love" if the other does their job?

V. | • | The Wildly popular teaching:
Wives and husbands have identical responsibilities

- A. | • | Wives and husbands job descriptions completely the same here? Are the responsibilities interchangeable, "equal"? | • |
- B. | • | Implication of "one another [ἀλλήλων]"? | • |
- C. | • | Head means "source"? | • |
- D. | • | Wasn't this temporary because wives were uneducated and had a narrow experience in those days?
- E. | • | Wasn't this head thing a product of the fall anyway?
- F. | • | What about "inequity of empowerment"?
- G. | • | What about abuse?