

Ephesians
Submission
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Jarrod Adkins

Ephesians 5:18-33

18 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.

- **Submission** – (*hypotassō*, Greek) centers on positioning oneself under legitimate authority, not blind obedience, but a conscious alignment of one's will with that of a rightful leader.

There are multiple relational spheres where submission applies in Scripture. These include submission to God the Father, to truth, to Christ and the church's leadership, to parents, to civil authorities, to employers, and marriage relationships.

Galatians 2:4-5

4 Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery— 5 to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 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. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 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. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- The wife's submission is modeled after the church's response to Christ. The husband's leadership is modeled after Christ's sacrifice for the church. Each role must function in unison.

Philippians 2:2-11

2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Mark 10:42-45

42 And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Jesus came to serve, not be served, cf. **Mark 10:45**

Jesus washed His disciples' feet, cf. **John 13:3-15**

Jesus was patient with His disciples, cf. **Matthew 16:21-23; Luke 22:31-32; John 21:15-19**

Jesus was gentle with the weak, cf. **Matthew 11:28-30; Mark 10:13-16**

Jesus protected His people, cf. **John 10:11-15**

Jesus was attentive to people's needs, cf. **Matthew 9:36; 14:14-16; John 11:33-35**

Jesus prayed for His people and pursued unity, cf. **John 17**

Jesus spoke truth in love, cf. **John 4:16-26; 8:10-11**

Jesus forgave and restored, cf. **John 21:15-19**

Jesus sacrificed himself, cf. **John 10:11-15**

The Point: When we learn to submit to Christ, husbands learn to lead like Christ, wives learn to respond like the church, and all of us learn to love and serve one another as people who belong to Jesus.

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