



HOW TO BE THE WIFE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE

SERIES: A Marriage Tune Up
Ephesians 5:22-24, 33
Sunday, October 24, 2021

REVIEW: Three Critical Resources

1. (Ephesians 5:15-16) **EXAMINE** the dynamics of my marriage – how I navigate in it.
2. (Ephesians 5:17) **UNDERSTAND** God's will and desire for my marriage.
3. (Ephesians 5:18-21) Let God's Spirit **CONTROL** every aspect of my life and marriage.

How Can I Know the Spirit of God is in Control?

There's inward evidence – joy and worship.

There is upward evidence – giving thanks rather than complaining.

There is outward evidence – humility and submission.



The key to what comes next is the word “*submit*” in verse 21.

The word means “*to rank one's self under another in order to accomplish a purpose.*”

A REMINDER TO HUSBANDS

- Husbands have got to create the **ENVIRONMENT** for mutual submission ... by loving our wife like Christ loves the church.
- As we go through this passage, feelings of **RESENTMENT** can rise up - like “*Yeah, wife ... how come you don't act like that?*”

EXPLORING GOD'S WORD

1. THE COMMAND. 5:22a

Ephesians 5:22 (NASB) *Wives, be subject to your own husbands...*

Ephesians 5:21 (NASB) ... *and be subject to one another [mutuality] in the fear [reverence] of Christ.* ²²
Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Genesis 3:16 (NASB) *To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, in pain you will bring forth children; yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."*

Genesis 4:7 (NASB) *"If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."*

1 Peter 3:1 (NIV) *Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives."*

Elements of Mutual Submission

- "SURRENDER" - Submission is a voluntary act of surrendering one's rights or will.
- "SACRIFICE" and "SERVICE" - Service rendered to those to whom we submit often involves a sacrifice.
- "AUTHORITY" and "OBEDIENCE" - When I submit to one who has authority over me, I evidence this submission, in part, by my obedience. Conversely, when I submit to those under my authority, I evidence this with sacrificial service.
- "PRIORITY" - Those to whom we submit we give, in some manner, priority over us, our rights, our pleasure, or our will.

Colossians 3:18 (NASB) *"Wives, be subject to your husbands as is fitting in the Lord."*

2. THE ANALOGY. 5:22b

Ephesians 5:22 (NASB) *Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*

3. THE REASON. 5:23

Ephesians 5:23 (NASB) *For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.*

What does the headship in marriage call a husband to do or be?

It calls him to SERVANT-LEADERSHIP.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

OUR ROLE MODELS: The Father and the Son

John 5:18 (NASB) *For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.*

John 5:19 (NASB) *Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel."*

John 5:21 (NASB) *"For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. ²² For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, ²³ so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."*

Luke 10:22 (NASB) *"All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him."*

4. THE RESPONSE. 5:24

Ephesians 5:24 (NASB) *But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.*

5. THE APPLICATION: RESPECT. 5:33

Ephesians 5:33 (NASB) *Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.*

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS: Now What?

1. The greatest enemy in submission is SELF.
2. The greatest aid in submission is the HOLY SPIRIT.
3. The greatest test in submission is FOLLOWING THROUGH.

4. *The greatest joy in submission is SURRENDER TO GOD.*