

Episode #313 Ephesians 5 Part 3-Submission: Wives and Husbands

I. In Ephesians 1-3, the Holy Spirit revealed to us all the glorious things that are true of us “in Christ.” Now, in Ephesians 4-6, we are told of the “worthy walk” that we should live in love and gratitude to God for the glorious position we have received.

II. In Ephesians 5:1-21, we learned that we are urged to imitate God and to walk in love, as children of light, and as wise. We should take every opportunity to serve Him in these wicked days. We should understand His will, avoid drunkenness, speak in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, give thanks to God, and submit to one another. Now, we will focus on submission.

III. Ephesians 5:21. The final point of being filled with the Spirit: submitting ourselves to one another in the fear of Christ. The result of this would be that all are equal in the sight of God and each other. There is great truth in this! However, this is just the summary. The following verses show us that there are situations where submission is particularly appropriate. It is not that we don't need to submit to anyone's authority. Verse 21 does not define the following verses, nor do the following verses define verse 21. As believers, we all should submit to one another. Yet there are situations wherein one believer particularly needs to submit to another, as the following verses show.

IV. Submission - Wives to husbands.

A. Ephesians 5:22. Wives should arrange themselves under their own husbands.

1. Notice: not that women arrange themselves under men, but only wives under their own husbands.
2. Christ is the example of submission. I Corinthians 15:27-28. We think of a conqueror standing over the conquered, saying, “Submit!” or of an inferior submitting to a superior. Yet Christ is neither forced to submit, nor is He inferior to God. He submits out of love, and because it is the right thing to do.
3. Notice: this is something the wives need to do voluntarily. This does not give men permission to force their wives into subservience.
4. This is to be done as to the Lord! How does the Lord get subservience from us? He requires us to arrange ourselves under Him. He does not force us to do so, but asks us to submit to Him out of love. In the same way, the wives are to submit to their husbands voluntarily, and out of love.

B. Ephesians 5:23. The husband is the head.

1. Greek “head” = *kephale*. “Head” does not mean “boss.” The Greeks would add up the column and call the sum at the top the “head.” “Headwaters” are the outflowing source waters. “Head” is a sum or outflowing source.
2. The husband is the source to his wife of her “wifedom.”
3. He is this way, just as Jesus Christ is the source to the ekklesia (not “church,” but “outcalled,” those who have a position out of Jesus Christ.) In God’s kingdom on earth, men from all times and ages will be a part of the ekklesia He will form at that time to rule over the earth. They will rule perfectly and rightly because Christ will be the source of all they do.
4. Christ is also the Savior of the body. “Body” is the physical substance of a thing. The “body” here are those who partake of Jesus Christ and become in measure what He is. He is the Savior of all who are a part of this body.

C. Ephesians 5:24. The wives are to be subject to their husbands as the ekklesia is to Christ.

1. In order for the outcalled to function properly, they must arrange themselves under Christ in everything. So the wives are commanded to arrange themselves under their husbands in everything in the same way.
 2. This leaves little room for equivocation, for surely the outcalled must hold nothing back in submitting themselves in every way to Christ!
- D. Ephesians 5:25. This is not all about the wives. The husbands have a response: to love their wives.
1. There is a kind of submission in love as well.
 2. How much? He is to love her as Christ loves the ekklesia. When we consider that Christ gave Himself and died a horrible, God-forsaken death for His outcalled, we can see that no husband today needs to worry about loving his wife too much!
 3. A husband who loves his wife is a good man for her to submit to. She can know that whatever he does and however he leads, he will always have her good in mind because of his love for her. A husband who is selfish and unloving would be a real burden to submit to. It is the job of the husband to be the kind of man his wife can submit to without regret or fear.

V. Conclusion: We are to submit to one another in the fear of Christ, yet there are still situations where submission is particularly appropriate. First is the wives are to submit to husbands. This is as the ekklesia submits to Christ. Yet the husbands have a proper response: to love their wives. Such a husband would be easy to submit to. Let us pray that God will help us to live His way in our family relationships!