

## Sermon Outline 4.6.08

*Ephesians 5:21-33*

1. Two foundational questions.

- A. Motive: do you recognize the life-factors that drive you?
- B. Process: how do you listen to the Word of God (James 1:22-25)?

A call upon wives to *hupotasso* (vs. 22) and respect (vs. 33) their husbands.

What submission does not mean:

It does not in any way imply that women are inferior to men.

Every woman is not called to submit to every man, but every married woman is to submit to her husband.

Wives are not called to submit to their husband's sinful choices.

Wives are not called to give up their efforts to influence and guide their husbands for the good of the family.

What submission does mean:

An "arranging under" of one's resources and abilities for the benefit of another to the glory of God. It is an act of worship whose primary purpose is to honor God.

Recognition of the divinely given order of the home.

Recognition of one's own husband's authority under God.

Voluntary, sacrificial, patient loyalty to one's husband.

Why should wives submit to their husbands? (v. 23)

What does submission look like? (v. 24)

"Submission refers to a wife's divine calling to honor and affirm her husband's leadership, and help carry it through according to her gifts. It is not an absolute surrender of her will; rather, we speak of her disposition to yield to her husband's guidance and her inclination to follow his leadership. Christ is her absolute authority, not the husband. She submits out of reverence for Christ, as Paul said in Ephesians 5:21. The supreme authority of Christ qualifies the authority of her husband. For instance, she should never follow her husband into sin; nevertheless, even when she may have to stand with Christ against the sinful will of her husband, she can still have a spirit of submission, a disposition to yield. She can show by her attitude and behavior that she does not like resisting his will, and that she longs for him to forsake sin and lead in righteousness so that her disposition to honor him can again produce harmony in the marriage."

from *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood* by John Piper and Wayne Gruden