

GOD'S GLORY IN THE WIFE'S SUBMISSION

(Part 1: Ephesians 5:22-24)

Marriage, in the eyes of the unbelieving world, is just an outdated legal contract that can be made or broken at will or redefined by human court. But since marriage is an institution authored and designed by God Himself, we must therefore align our view of marriage with God's thoughts and teachings as revealed in His Word. While it is a precious gift from God which serves as a means to our holiness and happiness, marriage, in the final analysis, is supremely about the glory of God. **Since the glory of God is at stake in every marriage, we should honor the God-ordained role of the wife's submission and the husband's leadership.** Ephesians 5:22-24 presents three aspects of God's glory in the wife's submission.

1. God is glorified in the _____ of the wife's submission.

God has ordained the role of submission to the woman in the covenant of marriage (Ephesians 5:22). The word submit means "to arrange under" or "to subject oneself under." It has the idea of voluntary subordination and willing disposition to yield. Upon marriage, the Christian wife willingly arranges her life, her priorities and her attitudes under the headship of her husband and voluntarily yields herself to her husband's leadership for the purpose of glorifying God. This role of submission is not a mark of inferiority or God's slap on one's womanhood. Submission is an exalted role which is even exemplified by our Lord Jesus Himself (1 Corinthians 11:3; John 5:30; Matthew 26:39; Hebrews 5:7; 10:5-7; 12:2).

Willing submission for the wife means this: *"I will affirm, I will honor, I will support, I will follow the leadership and authority of my husband as I submit myself to Christ."* Submission to your husband flows out of your sincere and loving submission to the Lord Jesus. Your faithful submission to your husband is your obedience to God's call to revere and please the Lord Jesus in your married life.

2. God is glorified in the _____ for the wife's submission.

God's Word provides a twofold reason for the wife's submission. The first reason has to do with God's order in creation: *"For the husband is the head of the wife."* The second reason has to do with Christ's role in redemption: *"even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior"* (Ephesians 5:23). From the very beginning when God created Adam and Eve, He has given to the man the role of headship and leadership (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7-8,18). The fact that Adam was created first indicates the priority given to Adam as the federal head or leader of the human race. The fact that Eve was created as a helper suitable to Adam signifies her complementary and noble role as ordained by God. As wives fulfill their role as helper to their husbands, they are actually reflecting the glory of God Himself as our divine helper (Psalm 54:4; 86:17; 28:7; Isaiah 41:10; John 14:16-17).

The wife must submit to her husband not only because of God's order in creation, but also because of Christ's role in redemption (Ephesians 5:23). In explaining the headship of Christ over His church, Paul highlights the Saviorhood of our Lord. Jesus' authority over His church is rooted in His saving and redeeming love for His people. Just as the church lives and acts under Christ's loving headship, so also must a wife live and arrange her life under the loving leadership of her husband.
