

## **GOD'S GLORY IN THE WIFE'S SUBMISSION**

(Part 2: Ephesians 5:22-24)

Marriage is not only a lifetime commitment. Marriage is also a life-changing and a life-shaping commitment. Marriage is supremely about the glory of God. That is the ultimate power of marriage. God has instituted marriage to display the depth, magnitude, beauty and glory of His unfailing covenant love for His people. Marriage is divinely designed by God to portray Christ's life-giving love for His church (Ephesians 5:32). **Since the glory of God in Christ 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 role of the wife's submission.**
2. **God is glorified in the reason for the wife's submission.**
3. **God is glorified in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the wife's submission.**

The commitment of the wife's submission is really put to test when God's Word calls the women in marriage to submit to their husbands in everything (Ephesians 5:24). Submission in everything means that the wife affirms, honors, supports and follows the leadership of her husband in all things and in every area of life. To further understand this comprehensive realm of the wife's submission, let's consider these three principles.

- a. **Submission in everything has a \_\_\_\_\_.**

The wife's submission to their husbands in everything is patterned after the church's comprehensive submission to the Lordship of Christ (Ephesians 5:24). As the church seeks to love, please and revere Christ in everything, so must a wife seek to love, please and respect her husband in everything. A submissive wife should always treat her husband with tender affection and serving love (Ephesians 5:2; Titus 2:4). She must also please her husband as the church is commanded to learn and find out what pleases the Lord (Ephesians 5:10). A submissive wife should please her husband with her heart's attitudes, her daily conduct and her physical and spiritual adornment (1 Peter 3:3-5; Proverbs 5:18-20; 1 Corinthians 7:2-5). Furthermore, a submissive wife must respect her husband as the church reveres Christ (Ephesians 5:21,33).

- b. **Submission in everything has \_\_\_\_\_.**

Since no authority on earth precedes the absolute authority of Christ, that means that a husband's authority over his wife is limited and confined to those areas and matters that please the Lord and are consistent with the truths and principles of God's Word (Ephesians 5:24). This has a twofold implication. First, submission in everything does not mean that the wife must give in to her husband's sinful demands. Second, submission in everything does not mean that the wife must tolerate her husband's abusive behaviors (Ephesians 5:25; 1 Peter 3:7; Psalm 9:9; 147:3).

- c. **Submission in everything has a \_\_\_\_\_.**

Headship not only entails leadership and authority. It also entails priority (Ephesians 5:23). Next to her relationship with God, the wife's relationship to her husband must be the primary and priority human relationship in her life. God has purposefully placed a husband and a wife in the Garden of Eden, not a parent and a child, to show us that the marriage relationship between a husband and a wife must be the priority human relationship (Gen. 2).

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