



Submission

by Mrs. Joan Hufstetler

*As the church is subject to Christ,
so also the wives ought to be to their
husbands in everything.*
~Ephesians 5:24

I. Definition of Submission

- A. Webster's**—"To yield oneself to the authority or will of another, to defer to, or consent to abide by the opinion or authority of another; the condition of being humble or compliant."
- B. Biblical**—Yielding intelligent, humble obedience to an authority ordained by God. It involves acknowledging my husband as my head, becoming one flesh with him, respecting him, having a gentle and quiet spirit, and obeying him (Ephesians 5:22,23; I Peter 3:1-6).

II. Biblical Principles Concerning a Wife's Submission

- A. A wife is to be submissive to her husband in all things unless her husband asks her to sin.**
 - 1. "Be subject to" means to be ranked under in military order. The ranking of the wife under the husband's authority is God's idea so there will be order and harmony in the home.
 - 2. The wife is not inferior but should take the attitude of the Lord—submissive servanthood—in

order to carry out her God-intended role (Philippians 2:5-8).

3. “All things” means all areas of life such as finances, decorating the home, hair length, discipline of the children, etc. Some husbands are not interested in details, but if your husband is, try to please him.

B. A submissive wife is not afraid to do the right thing (1 Peter 3:6).

1. She obeys God’s Word whether she feels like it or not.
2. She thinks true, right, and praiseworthy thoughts.
3. She gives appropriate suggestions and biblical reproofs if necessary.
4. She does not review in her mind what he has done wrong.
5. She speaks to him in a gentle and respectful, but truthful way.
6. She prays for him.
7. Result—We do these things because they are right, but the more we give in marriage, the more we receive back.

C. A submissive wife does not dishonor the Word of God.

Titus 2:3-5 says we are to be subject to our own husbands so that the Word of God will not be dishonored. *Wives, be subject to your husbands as is fitting in the Lord* (Colossians 3:18).

1. Any thing other than godly submission is not fitting or proper for a Christian wife since it dishonors God and His Word.

2. A submissive wife honors the Word of God when:
 - a. Obeying God is more important than having her own way.
 - b. She has an appropriate fear of the Lord.
 - c. She lets the Word of God direct her life.
 - d. Her life is not an affront to the pattern given in Ephesians 5.

III. How to be a Submissive Wife

A. By showing love (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

B. By making my husband top priority after God.

Honoring and serving my husband pleases God. I am to help my husband be all that God wants him to be.

1. Find out what encourages him when he is down.
2. Accept him as he is (Genesis 2:18—*to be a helper suitable for him*). Our job is not to change him—that is God’s job. We are to help him to meet his needs.
3. Become one with him. Genesis 2:24 tells us that when we marry, we *become one flesh*. This is more than just a physical union. As long as I think of my husband as someone apart from me, I can quarrel with him, compete with him, and hurt him. But if he is part of me as God intends, then I want to be good to him. Instead of thinking “I, MY, ME”, I need to think “WE, OUR, US”, and God will make us truly one.
4. Respect and praise him. Ephesians 5:33 in the Amplified Version says, *Let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband, that she notices him, honors him, venerates him, and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and*

admires him exceedingly! WOW! That is completely against our culture and our old nature. Why do you think God wants us to treat our husbands this way? Because he is our Head. We are to encourage him, motivate him, inspire him, and be his main cheerleader. Actually, our husbands have a harder job than we do because they are responsible for their wives and children.

C. By having a godly character.

Is my husband more godly because of my influence or am I a hindrance to his spiritual growth?

D. By being the glory of my husband (1 Corinthians 11:7).

1. I bear my husband's name. I should bring honor, respect, and glory to his name. I should never do anything to bring shame upon his name.
2. I should be a crown to my husband (Proverbs 12:4). A crown adds to a husband's dignity, position, and authority.

E. By loving our children (Titus 2:4).

Young women are to love their children as well as their husbands.

1. A godly woman makes her home a haven of encouragement, understanding, refuge, rest, and relaxation, where everyone feels secure and loved.
2. It is good to have a weekly family night when you set aside time to have fun together.

F. Remember we married a sinner (Romans 3:23).

Wouldn't it be awful to live with a perfect husband?!

G. Always forgive and refuse to bring up past sin or failure. Do not stockpile.

H. Always be a good listener (James 1:19).

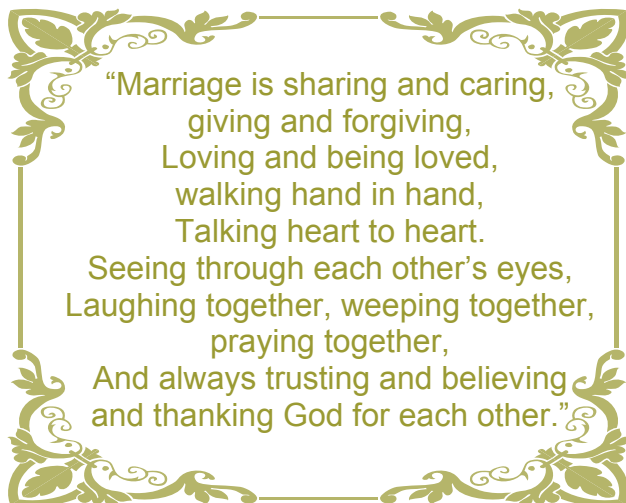
Listening is a form of really caring.

I. Always remember to put time in your schedule for each other.

IV. A Christian Home is the Greatest Example of Christianity to the World (Especially on the Mission Field).

V. Summary—Submission involves accepting, admiring, appreciating, obeying, and adapting to my husband.

Helen Steiner Rice describes marriage this way:



VI. Assignment

- A. Write out 5 things you appreciate about your husband and give it to him.
- B. Write out a recommitment to your husband.
Example on following page.

To My Beloved _____

(Name)

- 1. I will stay with you, love you, and cherish you, no matter what happens to either of us, as long as we both shall live.*
- 2. Wherever God leads you, no matter how hard the place, I will go with you.*
- 3. If you become sick or disabled in any way, I will always care for you.*
- 4. When we are angry with each other I promise to help reconcile and trust your leadership.*
- 5. If our marriage seems stale and boring, I will ask God for creative ideas to make our marriage exciting again. I pledge to keep working at making our marriage better.*
- 6. I promise to accept you as you are and pray for you always that God will make any necessary changes.*
- 7. I will do my best to make you happy and satisfy your needs.*
- 8. I will joyfully submit to you and give you first priority in my life after God.*
- 9. I will do my best to be a godly wife and mother, and to never bring dishonor on your name or hinder your witness for Christ.*



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