



*Joyfully Embracing God's  
Command for a Wife to Submit  
to Her Own Husband*

by Katie Leedy

*Wives, be subject to  
your own husbands, as to the Lord.  
For the husband is the head of the wife,  
as Christ also is the head of the church,  
He Himself being the Savior of the body.  
But as the church is subject to Christ,  
so also the wives ought to be  
to their husbands in everything.*

Ephesians 5:22-24

*Looking at Scripture: What does the Bible  
say?*

*Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be  
alone; I will make him a **helper suitable for him.**"*

Genesis 2:18

*Wives, **be subject to your own husbands**, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. And the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.*

Ephesians 5:22-24, 33b

*Wives, **be subject to your husbands**, as is fitting in the Lord.*

Colossians 3:18

*To be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, **being subject to their own husbands**, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.*

Titus 2:5

*In the same way, you wives, **be submissive to your own husbands** so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, **being submissive to their own husbands**; just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.*

I Peter 3:1-6

1. *God made a wife for Adam to be a companion and helper corresponding to him.*
  - Adam was made first; then Eve was made as his helper and companion. (I Corinthians 11:9)
  - This shows the order God established from the very beginning.
  
2. *God gives wives a specific command.*
  - The words “**be subject**” or “**be submissive**” are used 5 times in these passages.
  - Meaning of “be subject” or “be submissive”
    - Pastor Minnick: “arrange under”
    - Strong’s Concordance: to place or rank under, to subject
    - Voluntary submission done by the subject
    - Clear Command
  
3. *What the Bible doesn’t say*
  - It does not demean women or portray them as less intelligent, gifted, or capable.
  - It does not tell wives to be doormats or slaves.

# *Looking at Scripture: Why are wives to submit to their own husbands?*

Ephesians 5:22-24

## *1. As to the Lord*

We are to arrange ourselves under our husband's leadership because that is obeying the Lord. Our relationship to our Savior and our trust in Him is why we should voluntarily submit to our own husband. Our subordinating ourselves to our husband IS serving the Lord!

## *2. For the husband is the head of the wife*

God's order and structure for the family unit is this:

*. . . Christ is the head of every man and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.*

I Corinthians 11:3

## *3. As Christ also is the head of the church*

As a married couple, we are to display a picture of the relationship of Christ and the church. Our part is to submit ourselves to our husband as the church submits itself to Christ.

## *Looking at Life: How do we obey God's command to arrange ourselves under our husband?*

### *1. Embrace God's command joyfully! Realize the great calling you have as a wife.*

- Psalm 119:60 *I hastened and did not delay to keep Your commandments.*
- Psalm 119:103-104 *How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth! From Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.*
- I John 5:3 *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.*

### *2. Know your husband.*

- Listen, observe.
- Find out his likes and dislikes.
- Discover when his hard times of the day are (i.e.: getting up in the morning, getting home from work).
- Find out what you can do to encourage him when he is discouraged.

3. *Fit your husband. (complement, complete, correspond to)*

- Respect

*And the wife must see to it that she respects her husband. Ephesians 5:33*

- Personality
- His role as husband
- His role as father

4. *Guard your heart.*

*Watch over your heart **with all diligence**, for from it flow the springs of life. Proverbs 4:23*

- Guard your heart against: complaining, discontentment.
- Strengthen your heart with: thankfulness, rejoicing with and for your husband.



## 5. *Watch your walk.*

Ephesians 4-5:

4:1—walk in a manner *worthy of the calling God has given you*—part of that is to be a wife

4:17—don't walk like the unbelievers (Counter-cultural!  
Called to consecration in our culture.)

5:1-2—walk in love (be imitators of God)

5:8-10—walk as children of Light, learning what is  
pleasing to the Lord

5:15-16—walk carefully with wisdom (Proverbs 2)

5:18—walk in the Spirit (be filled with the Spirit)

5:21—walk in subjection to one another (be subject  
one to another in the fear of Christ)

5:22—Wives, walk in subjection to your husbands (be  
subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord!)

## *Looking at our Testing Times: How do you submit when you disagree?*

- “The test of your submission is when you disagree.”  
*Pastor Minnick*
- Think about some of these categories and how your  
“arranging under” meter is registering:
  - ✓ The home you buy/rent
  - ✓ Keeping of your home
  - ✓ Daily schedule (morning routine, supper, bedtimes,  
laundry)
  - ✓ Children: schooling, discipline, activities
  - ✓ Physical intimacy
  - ✓ Entertainment choices
  - ✓ Money

- What will it take to learn to submit to, arrange yourself under, subordinate yourself to your husband?

*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Romans 12:1-2

## *Conclusion*

God has given wives a **clear command** to arrange themselves under their own husbands. This is a *voluntary* submission to put yourself under your husband's leadership in the home. Let's embrace God's command joyfully and serve our wonderful Lord as we love and submit to our husband!