

Contra Mundum

The Godly Wife

Ephesians 5:22-24

June 14, 2015

I. The Prescription...“wives submit to your own husbands” (Eph. 5:22)

- An imperative given in light of all that has come before it
- Marks life in the spirit (Eph. 5:1-21; Col. 3:1-17)
- Is part of a subordination ethic designed for order and structure (Eph. 5:21)
- Is a pervasive imperative seen throughout the New Testament (Eph. 5:22; Titus 2:5; Col. 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1-6)
- Is rooted in creation and not culture (Gen. 2-3; Eph. 5:31; 1 Tim. 2:12-14)
- Is modeled in the Trinity (1 Cor. 15:27; Jn 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7)

II. The Posture...“as unto the Lord” (Eph. 5:22,24)

- Is an act of obedience unto the Lord first and foremost
- Submission is rooted in humility, contentment, and thanksgiving (Eph. 5:19-21; Col. 3:16-17).
- Submission should not be incumbent upon a husband’s love and or faith (1 Peter 3:1-6).
- Obedience in this regard mirrors a wife’s commitment to Christ (Eph. 5:25).

III. The Picture...Christ and His church (Eph. 5:23-24)

- Submission is responding to initiating love (Eph. 5:25)
- Submission is an act of sanctification (Eph. 5:26).
- Marriage is a visible presentation of the mystery of the relationship of Christ and His church (Eph. 5:32).
- The mystery is about unity and diversity as two become one (Eph. 5:31).

Suggested Reading:

Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, by John Piper and Wayne Grudem

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Ephesians 5:15-21

1. Why does our culture have so many issues with this imperative? How would you answer those who say that this instruction is outdated?
2. What is a proper definition of submission? What is it not?
3. Can you think of other areas of life where submission is important? What goes wrong when it is subverted?
4. What is characteristic of the “gentle and quiet spirit” that Peter writes about in 1 Peter 3:1-6?
5. Give some names of people whose marriage you admire and reasons for that admiration.
6. For those of you who are married, can you share some advice on ways in which you have learned how to work through these issues? What advice would you give young women considering marriage?
7. For those of you who are single, what can you learn from a sermon/text like this?
8. How does the illustration of marriage as a picture of Christ and the church impact your own marriage?
9. What are some things husbands can do to make submission easier? What are some things a wife can do to encourage more self-sacrificing love from her husband?