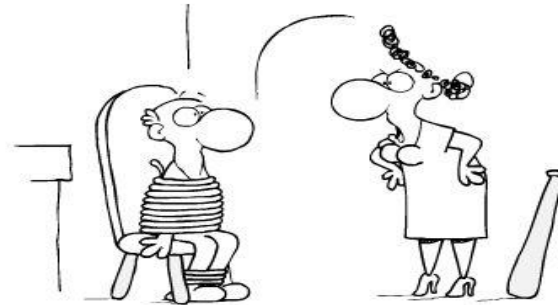


“A Man Under God’s Authority” —The Role of The Wife

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"I am not abusive! I am just being highly persuasive!..."

What words and ideas come to mind when you see these pictures? Do either one of these pictures represent how God intends for his ranking of authority to be practiced in the home? _____



What is the Role and Responsibility of the Wife?

1. **TO SUBMIT** --Ephesians 5:22-24 "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in **everything**." Colossians 3:18 "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."

I Peter 3:1-2, 5-6 "Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word may be won by the conduct of their wives when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear....For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror."

2. **TO RESPECT** --Ephesians 5:33 "Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." I Peter 3:1-2 talks about unbelieving husbands being won by the wife when they observe their chaste conduct coupled with fear. The *International Standard Bible Encyclopædia* defines fear in this context as awe and reverence.

The word "submit" is a military term and means "to rank under." It has no reflection of value or significance. It is simple. In any organization there is **one** ultimate head. Look at the government. The Supreme Court has a Chief Justice. The House of Representatives has a Speaker of the House. The Executive Branch has a President. Any Corporation has a President. Offices have an office manager. A school has a principal. So why is the idea of the home having someone in charge so repellant to so many in society?

The word "obey" means to bring oneself under what is heard. When a husband voices a decision for the family, the wife, according to I Peter 3:6, is to listen and submit.

Why is this God's Order?

1. **Woman created for man**--I Corinthians 11:8-9 "For man is not from woman, but woman from man. Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man."
2. **Woman sinned first**--I Timothy 2:11-14 "Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived but the woman being deceived fell into transgression. Nevertheless, she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love and holiness, with self-control."

3. **Woman was cursed**--Genesis 3:16 “ To the woman He said, “ I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be to your husband, And he shall RULE over you.”

Preparing to Submit

1. Study to know God’s will for your life. I Peter 5:5

If you never marry, you will still have to lead a life of submission to please God.

2. Pray for the right attitude and for wisdom

James 1:5; Matthew 26:41

3. Pray for your husband---or **future** husband (even if you haven’t found him)! I Timothy 2:1

4. Choose the right husband!

A. KNOW HIM BEFORE YOU MARRY

1. Is he committed to living first for Christ? Does he understand both of your roles in the home? Do you both agree on what those are? How does he intend to rule? Do you respect him? Will you try to manipulate him?
2. Will he be the spiritual leader you need? Will you have to drag him out of bed to get to worship? Can he answer your Bible questions? Does he want to grow in Christ, or is he content with the status quo?
3. Are the things you differ over matters of judgment or matters of faith? Can you live together in harmony if they are never resolved?
4. What about children? Do you share similar philosophies on rearing children? What if you disagree and he insists on having his way?

Submission is Not....

As a teenager in the 70s, I remember discussing the subject of submission in marriage with one of my favorite high school teachers. She thought the idea archaic and couldn’t believe someone (in her words) as intelligent as I was would believe something as ancient as that doctrine. I soon discovered she had no concept of the Biblical doctrine of submission. Her ideas were

totally inaccurate. Discussing the subject a few months ago with a co-worker, I found that the exact attitude was still present. So let's talk about what submission is **NOT**.

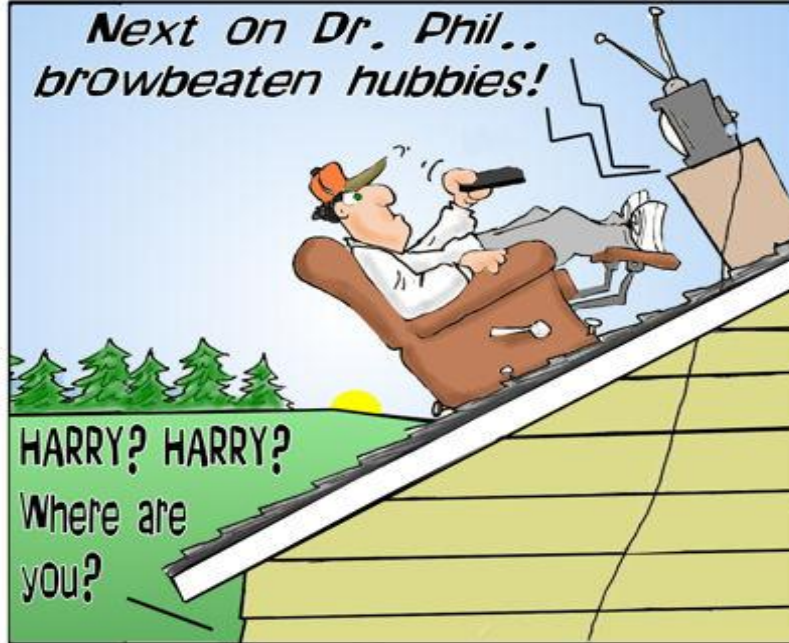
1. **Submission is not something that only affects married people.** Society could not exist without order, and all relationships have leaders and followers—employers & employees, teachers & students, parents & children, Presidents, police officers, Judges, meter maids. In every aspect of our life, there is someone we are going to have to submit to about something. I Peter gives us examples of submission in government, the church, the workplace and the home.

Why would you be ashamed to say you submit to your husband if you are not ashamed to say you submit to the laws of the land passed by Congress?

2. **Submission is not degrading.** Today women have been told that they are sub-par humans if they let a man tell them what to do. They should be ashamed and embarrassed. They are second class citizens. Was Christ any less God because he submitted to His Father's plan of redemption for His children? Does anyone think less of the Captain in the army because he salutes the General? Does anyone think the General is less of a man because he obeys the President? For too long we've let ungodly, worldly women shame us into being silent on this subject. We've let them influence us through daily talk shows and other means. It's time we found our voice. God is our Creator. HE ALONE knows what is best for us! Christ is our greatest example of submission. God exalted Christ because He submitted to the Father's plan and came to this earth (Philippians 3:5-9).

3. **Submission is not fearful.** 2 Timothy 1:7 says, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." A fearful woman will have a difficult time submitting to her husband. She isn't actively trusting God with her life, which makes entrusting a man with her future nearly impossible. I Peter 3: 6 "...as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror."

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



It is better to live on a roof, than with a **NAGGING WIFE!** Pr 21:9

4. Submission is not silent. Being submissive does not mean you lose your voice. It does not mean you lose your opinion. However, you certainly aren't the nagging woman talked about in Proverbs 21:9 either! One reason woman was made for man was for companionship, Genesis 2:8. And when you have chosen the right partner, he will want to hear your thoughts, and he will respect your opinions. However, he will not want to hear the same thoughts and opinions over and over and over again. Submission is not silent, but remember, you learn more by listening than by speaking. Let's not abuse our desire to express ourselves by becoming someone our husband has to hide from in order to find a little peace and quiet.

5. Submission is not joyless. There is great joy found in doing the will of God. Submission says, as Jesus did, "Not my will, but yours be done." As Paul gives us an example while a Roman prisoner writing to the Philippians; joy and happiness overflow from a heart that is thankful to God for whom he is and what he has been given.

Whether single or married, submission is a basic issue of the heart, revealing our dependence upon God. When as a wife, you make the choice willingly to submit to your husband in joyful obedience to Christ, you are submitting to God's will for you. It should be done happily. Philippians 3:14

6. Submission is not dumb. It doesn't make you dumb, and it isn't a dumb thing to do. There is no checking your brain at the door because your husband is in charge, as the world often portrays. There is no "I don't have to study I'll just let my husband tell me

what to believe.” Submission is the response of an intelligent woman who knows her Bible and believes that God’s plan works. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

7. **Submission is not weak!** Submissive does not mean mousy. Wives are not doormats. The posture of submission is strength willingly placed under the authority of another. Our husbands need our best. Our best comes from our first commitment to and submission to Christ as Lord of our lives. His strength and power in turn give us what we need to be the best for our loved ones. Ephesians 6:10

8. **Submission is not self-centered!** It doesn’t ask, “How is this going to affect me?” or “What’s in it for me?” A truly submissive heart asks, “How can I best serve God and my husband with my life?”

9-10. **Submission is not automatic or easy!** A submissive spirit does not automatically kick in as soon as you say “I do.” It is a behavior that has to be learned. The heart must be trained. Often major attitude adjustments must be made. As Christians, we understand submission to God. Even knowing that God is perfect and has perfect knowledge of what is best for us, we often choose not to submit to him. Now you’re married to someone that is not perfect, does not have perfect knowledge, **will** make wrong decisions---and you still have to submit to him. And, you have to do it with a smile on your face. This is the “not easy” part. According to Hebrews 5:8, Christ learned obedience. We may have to learn it also.