

Study Guide: "Submission through Respect"

Carter Sanger, Sep-09

Introduction

What does the instruction "wives submit to your husband" bring to mind? What kind of feelings does it bring up?

Read Ephesians 5:21-24,33.

I. Why Must a Wife Submit?

According to verse 22, why must a wife submit to her husband?

- Read Genesis 2:5-8. Who is created first? What is implied by this text about why man is created? (refer also to verse 15 and chapter 1:28).
- Read Genesis 2:18. Why does God say this? What does this say about man's calling and his ability to carry it out? What does this say about the woman's calling? Is this a bad thing?

II. Why is Submission is so Difficult?

Paul gives the woman a command to submit to her husband.

- Why is it necessary to give a command?

Throughout history, men have dominated woman. They have viewed them as prizes and/or property. They have limited their rights. A common Jewish prayer for a man began, "thank you God for not making me a slave, a Gentile, or a woman..." Greeks and Romans were even worse in their treatment of their wives. This was the setting in which Paul gives the command.

- Does our culture still carry with it the sense of oppression of women? Does the idea of submission in your mind connect with this oppression?
- What about worth. Does our culture view some jobs as having more worth than others? Where does a stay-at-home mom or housewife fit into this picture?

III. How Can Wives Submit?

Read the second part of verse 23.

- In addition to the role of head over the church, what role does Christ have?
- Read Luke 4:16-20. What did Jesus consider his mission?
- Looking again at verse 23, what is Christ's model for his mission? Do you think there is a connection between Christ's headship and his mission to save?
- Read Genesis 11:1-8. What are the people trying to do? Is building a city an evil thing? (if you're not sure read Revelation 21:9-14) What was the evil thing? What does this say about the real oppressor of people? (think in terms of self-worth)
- When a woman gets married, she often takes the name of her husband. Read Philippians 2:9. What name has Jesus been given? What is the church called in relationship to Jesus ?
- What does this say about the only way to be saved from our own oppression of achieving our own self-worth? To whom must we be married? Are you married to Christ? Have you submitted to his headship and salvation?
- To whom is a woman to submit? Is it every man? How does this counter the muslim view that men are over women?
- If our name comes from Christ and not own own position of power in the world, how does this counter the feminists view of ending women's oppression by having them become like men?

Wrap-up

- What practical ways can you submit to your husband?