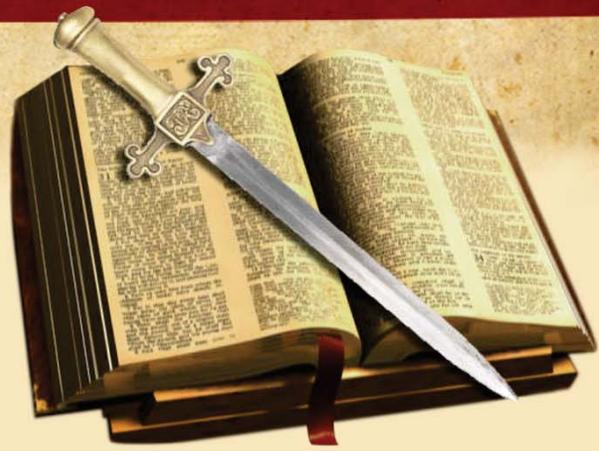


Setting Your Heart

on the

Kingdom



EPHESIANS

Women Submit to Men? You Can't Be Serious!

(The Principle of: Co-Submission...God's Strategy to Rule the Earth)

Ephesians 5:21-31

Oh, how far we've fallen from God's original intentions! That's what sin does...it separates us from God and His purposes. If you're looking for a role model of a husband/wife relationship, don't look beyond Genesis 2. Adam and Eve were God's "warrior team" charged to rule over a planet infested with fallen angelic forces (*Is. 14:12; Rev. 12:9*). **Together** they were blessed, and **together** they received their assignment (*Gen. 1:28*). But if you look at the consequences of sin, you'll discover how much was lost. **Embarrassment** replaced unashamed openness (*Gen. 3:7*). **Accusation** usurped love (*Gen. 3:12*). **Pain** stole pleasure (*Gen. 3:16*). Men **dominated** women rather than caring for them (*Gen. 3:16*). *Now, on this fallen backdrop, try telling a woman she has to "submit" to a non-communicative, blame shifting, hurtful, dominating and egotistical man! What do you think her response would be?*

The whole idea of "submission" has been grossly misunderstood. In our fallen state, many view it as cowering to a dominating force. *But what if submission is about recognizing and honoring gifts, not bowing to power? And what if it's a strategy rather than an obligation?* One of its original meanings is "to arrange troops to accomplish a mission." Another meaning is "to assume responsibility in carrying a burden." Tragically, dominating men use Eph. 5:22 as a club to bludgeon their wives into submission. Conveniently they overlook vs. 21, "Be subject to one another!" Nor do they read vs. 23, "The husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the Church." *The reason women refuse to "submit" to gifts in men is because few men are like Christ who "gave Himself up for His Church!"*

Dear sir, being the "head" of your wife means you're responsible to **care** for her...**not dominate her!** It means that you view her as created **co-equal** with you...**not inferior to you!** *It means that if her gift is greater than yours, submit to her gift without trying to overshadow it!* If you love like Jesus loves, your wife will recognize and honor your godly leadership without question! Then, as God's "redeemed warrior team," you'll accomplish more as a unified team than as an individual. *Co-Submission to God's gifts in one another is His strategy for ruling on earth as it is in heaven. It's TWO Gifts ruling as ONE!*

Next: The Kingdom of God in Philippians - Why Old Apostles Refuse to Die!

