

“How to Live Happily Ever After, Part 1”

Ephesians 5:22-24

C.I.T.—Wives honor Jesus when they yield to their husband’s leadership.

C.I.S.—Worship the Lord by yielding to your husband’s leadership.

Purpose—I want to encourage a biblical view of being a wife.

Introduction—Wife material—if you want to be wife material

- I. **Fall in Line** vs. 22a
 - a. Own husbands
 - i. Not all women submitting to all men
 - ii. This is referring to the dynamics of the marriage relationship
 - iii. The application is limited to the marriage
 - b. Submit
 - i. Hypotasso—military term to underrank someone
 - ii. Carried over from vs. 21
 - iii. Parallel in **Colossians 3:18**
 - c. Tense
 - i. In the active it means to force someone to submit
 - ii. In the passive, it is a voluntary submission
 - iii. This means that a wife has to make a conscious decision to willingly submit.
 - d. **Ephesians 6:1 and 5**—obey instead of submit
 - i. The husband is not to treat her like a child or a slave.
 - ii. He does not have the right to quote this Scripture as justification to walk all over her
 - e. Instead, this is yielding to the husband’s leadership.
 - f. This is getting out of the way and letting him lead: falling in line, and supporting his leadership
 - g. Illus.—for instance, I wear the pants in my house, but my wife tells me which ones to wear
 - h. Illus.—Driving the RV—she allowed me to drive and supported me in that, she yielded to my leadership
 - i. Application
 - i. Let him drive the bus.
 - ii. You can help and encourage, and at times offer suggestions.
 - iii. But don’t try to take the wheel or make his life miserable being a back seat driver.
 - iv. What if I can’t trust my husband to drive?
- II. **Focus on Christ** vs. 22b
 - a. As unto the Lord—connects submitting to your husband to submitting to the Lord
 - b. **Colossians 3:18**—fitting in the Lord
 - c. Illus.—**1 Peter 3:1-6**
 - i. Submit to even unbelieving husbands
 - ii. Put on spiritual adornment
 - iii. Hope in God
 - iv. Submitting to their own husband was an act of worship to the Lord.
 - d. Application
 - i. Some men are inept at leadership.
 - ii. Many times the wives might be more qualified to lead and make decisions, especially when it comes to spiritual things.
 - iii. When a Godly wife submits to her husband, she doesn’t do so because of him, but because of Him.

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- iv. This submission is an act of worship.
- v. It tells the Lord, that even though following this man may seem foolhardy, I am trusting you to carry me through.
- vi. It very well could be an act of evangelism and missions.
- vii. Caveat—you are a Christian before you are a wife, so submission has its limits, don't go outside the bounds of morality or legality

III. **Fulfill your Role** vs. 23

- a. Headship
 - i. Could refer to a source of something, protection, life, provision
 - ii. Refers to authority, responsibility
- b. Jesus as head of the church provides an example
 - i. Ephesians 1:22
 - ii. He serves as the source of protection, life, provision, etc.
 - iii. He also serves as the authority.
 - iv. Christ was appointed by God to the role of Head of the church.
 - v. So is the husband appointed by God to be the head of the family
- c. Genesis 2
 - i. Eve was made out of Adam as a helpmate to offset his inadequacies.
 - ii. Adam's statement in **Gen. 2:23**
 - 1. Affirms the equality of men and women—flesh of my flesh
 - 2. Affirms the distinction—woman instead of man
 - iii. The headship of the husband and the submissiveness of the wife does not communicate less value, but different roles.
- d. Genesis 3
 - i. When Adam and Eve sinned, who sinned first? Eve
 - ii. Why then does the Bible say that sin came through one man, Adam?
 - iii. Because God considered him the head of his house.
 - iv. **3:16**—Desire for your husband—same as sin's desire to rule Cain in chapter 4
 - v. The desire to lead and take over is the curse from the fall.
 - vi. The whole world has been built around overturning the Lord's plan for marriage and family.
- e. Illus.—**Titus 2:3-5**
- f. Application
 - i. The world is telling our young women to be a man.
 - ii. The world shuns the homemaker as not as important as the career woman.
 - iii. The submissive wife as weak and valueless.
 - iv. They view the Biblical model as chauvinistic and misogynistic.
 - v. Maybe we should consult God's word before we make decisions on family, career, etc.
 - vi. Fulfill the role that God has designed for us.

IV. **Follow your example** vs. 24

- a. The example for the submissiveness of the wife to the husband is the church to Christ.
- b. How does the church submit?
- c. The church yields to and follows the lead of Christ.
- d. The church does not tell Jesus what to do.
- e. Illus.—Revelation 2:1-5
- f. Application
 - i. They had abandoned their role of submitting to Christ, their first love.

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- ii. They were to return.
- iii. I wonder what the consequences might be for a women who refuses to submit to Jesus’ role and design for her life?
- iv. I wonder what will happen, when a wife refuses to submit to her husband?

Conclusion

- Submission is a spiritual issue.
- Failure to submit is also a spiritual issue, an requires a spiritual solution.
- Maybe you have gotten away from your first love and have tried to take wheel of the bus.
- Invitation to commit to being Biblical wives and women.

Colossians 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. (Col. 3:18 CSB17)

1 Peter 3:1 In the same way, wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, even if some disobey the word, they may be won over without a word by the way their wives live ² when they observe your pure, reverent lives. ³ Don't let your beauty consist of outward things like elaborate hairstyles and wearing gold jewelry, ⁴ but rather what is inside the heart-- the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ⁵ For in the past, the holy women who put their hope in God also adorned themselves in this way, submitting to their own husbands, ⁶ just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. You have become her children when you do what is good and do not fear any intimidation.

Genesis 2:23 And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called "woman," for she was taken from man.

Genesis 3:16 He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children with painful effort. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over you.

Titus 2:3 In the same way, older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not slaves to excessive drinking. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands and to love their children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, workers at home, kind, and in submission to their husbands, so that God's word will not be slandered.

Revelation 2:1 "Write to the angel of the church in Ephesus: Thus says the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and who walks among the seven golden lampstands: ² I know your works, your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot tolerate evil people. You have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you have found them to be liars. ³ I know that you have persevered and endured hardships for the sake of my name, and have not grown weary. ⁴ But I have this against you: You have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember then how far you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. (Rev. 2:1 CSB17)