

## **“THE SWEET SPIRIT OF SUBJECTION IN CHRIST”**

Genesis 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:21-24

The parable of the battleship versus the Lighthouse. Alter your course: submission is the calling of every Christian. Result of being filled with the Spirit, v. 18.

### **I. SUBJECTION IS THE CALLING OF EVERY HUMAN BEING**

#### **A. These Relationships are Hierarchical in Nature**

Verse 21 introduces three sets of relationships. One side of the relationship owes submission to the other side of the relationship. Verse 21 provides the verb that v. 22 needs. Literally in the Greek v. 22 reads, “Wives, to your own husbands, as to the Lord.” “Be subject” = to place yourself under someone else’s authority, who has the right to tell you what to do. Not “mutual submission” – a contradiction in terms. (Does Christ submit to the church?) Submission is the particular form of service that the wife is to render to the husband.

#### **B. All Are To Be Subject to Others**

Every human being called upon to place himself under others. Paul quite consistent in use of word: Rom 13:1; Tit 3:1; 1 Thess 5:12-13; cf. Heb 13:17. No exceptions. Are you submissive? Ask those over you. All human authority is limited to its proper sphere. How to distinguish between 1 Pet 2:20 and Acts 5:29? 1 Pet 5:2-5 -- Peter stretches Paul’s hierarchical use to emphasize example of humility by older men.

#### **C. Present (and Potential Husbands) Should Lead by Example**

A wife should be able to say, “I know what submission looks like...” How single women who want to get married should evaluate their prospects. Is he submissive? Eph 5:15; Prov 27:12. Where is he headed? Phillip Henry.

### **II. SUBMISSION DISPLAYS A SPECIAL GRACE FROM GOD**

#### **A. Grace Enables the Wife (and Apostle) to Get Under**

“Be subject”: *hupotasso* (*hupo* “under” + *tasso* “to place”) = “to place under.” Wife’s unique contribution to the marriage; common theme in all she does. Leonard Bernstein, Spurgeon; second fiddle. 3:8. Wives are like the Apostle. 1 Cor 4:1; *huperetes* = *hupo* + *eretes* (rower); an under-rower. Not an over-thrower. “Lord I am an under-rower by the grace of God! I serve at Your bidding and Your enablement!”

#### **B. A Good Wife is Like a Valuable Vice-President**

Is the Vice President subject to the President? Does the President need him desperately? Is there any ambiguity about the roles? Wives, you are the Vice President to your husband. Gen 2:18; Prov 31:10. Matthew Henry.

### **III. THE SPIRIT-FILLED WIFE IMITATES HER SAVIOR IN HIS SERVICE**

Not eternal subordination of Son to Father; economic; 1 Cor 11:3

#### **A. His Theme: “Not My Will, But Yours, Be Done”**

How could we say to Christ, “But you don't understand how hard it is for me to put my will under another's”? His whole heart and life was a glorious comment on Luke 22:42. John 17:4; John 4:34; Heb 5:8; Phil 2:5-11. Faith is not merely mental assent to a set of truths; rather, a reliance and dependence on this Son of God. He is the Lighthouse; you must alter your course if you want to be saved from the rocks. But His Light does the saving.

#### **B. The Godly Wife Imitates the God-Man**

This is the pattern for wives and all believers.

*Conclusion* -- Have Thine own way, Lord!