



Humble Submission

Life Principle #2

Handouts: Chapter #3

* God's Design for Marriage

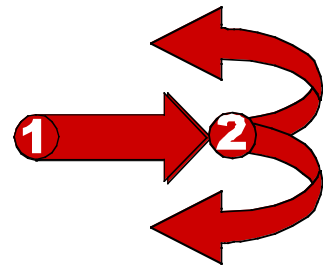
Mystery of Marriage

"For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:31-32).

(1) Unconditional love, (2) Humble Submission, and (3) Together Forever

* God's Plan - Ephesians 2:7-10

- _____
- Chosen
- Bought
- Belonging
- Share



* Hard to obey?

"Wives, be subject to your husbands as to the Lord" (Eph 5:22).

✦ Our trust in the Lord is tested.

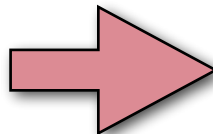
- Do we really trust Him?
- Will we obey him?

✦ The wife's trust in the husband is tested.

- Does she really trust Him?
- Will she obey him?

Deuteronomy 6:24-25

"To observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God ..."



"...For our good always and for our survival."

Obedience brings blessing

The wife's trust must ultimately be in God to meet her needs.

* The Choice of Obedience



* Keeping Focused

Four important truths to keep in mind:

- (1) She will subject herself to her husband _____ (Ephesians 5:24).
- (2) She will seek her husband's guidance on what and how to do things.
- (3) She will find inner satisfaction primarily from God's own love for her as His child.
- (4) She will trust the Lord as her ultimate Protector and Provider.

* The Same Temptation

The wife is regularly being tempted to reject the authority that God has placed over her. This happened in the garden of Eden when Eve heard a clever voice calling her to 'freedom' or 'independence.' Since that temptation worked so well, Satan still uses it to-day!

- (1) Satan questions God's _____.
- (2) He suggests that she is missing out on something good.
- (3) He draws her mind away from God's command to something that entices her appetites.
- (4) Satan attempts to snag her by persuading her obey what he says.



* Subtle Erroneous Arguments

Without being constantly aware of the truths of God, the woman will be caught off guard and begin to make decisions according to her own opinion. Because this is so common, perhaps it would be good to face some of these common subtle but unbiblical arguments.

♦ Poor Argument #1: Husband and wife should keep their _____

- Two independent lives, as associates
- Not dependent upon one another and merely share resources
- Contracts are breakable

These illustrations show how in a great marriage the spouse complements the other.



This illustration even better communicates the oneness of the married couple.



♦ Poor Argument #2: Protection for Self and Family

The assumption of this argument is that God does not help the needy wife and children. The wife is expected to protect herself.

God's justice versus wife's maneuvering. This is waywardness.



✦ **Poor Argument #3:** _____ allows the husband to trample her

The assumption of this argument is that God despises women and has thus cemented her in such a position.

- Genesis 3:15: Birth of deliverers Moses Jesus

✦ **Poor Argument #4: Submissiveness is equal to suffering**

The assumption of this argument is that submissiveness is a state of suffering and shame.

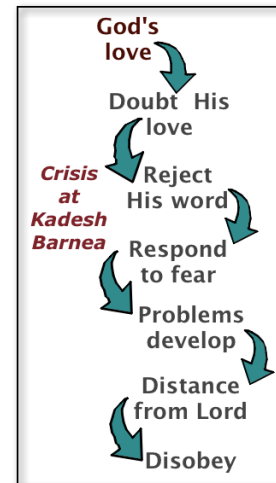
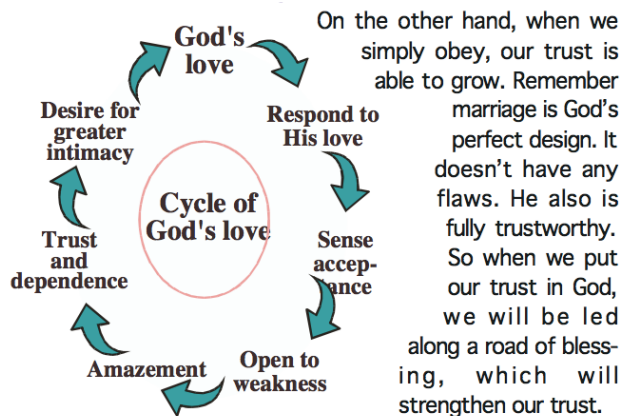
"In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior" (1 Peter 3:1-2).

All things to Christ	And when all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him... (1 Cor 15:28)
People to rulers	Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed. (Tit 3:1)
Slaves to their masters	Urge slaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative. (Tit 2:9)
Younger ones to their elders	You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; (1 Pe 5:5)
Churches to Christ	But as the church is subject to Christ. (Eph 5:24)
Wives to their husbands	To be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored (Tit 2:5)

Fear's Impact

Everybody needs to mature. Fear and doubt destroy this growing process. Fear strips away the trust that is essential to take steps of faith.

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love" (1 John 4:18).



* Understanding Submission for a Wife

"Let not your adornment be merely external--braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God" (1 Peter 3:3-4).

✦ **(a) A _____ Response**

A gentle heart enables the man to retire his fight mode and enjoy her company.

♦ (b) A Quiet Response

A quiet spirit encourages the man who tends to talk less to speak and share his heart.

* Fulfillment of a Faithful Wife

"An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels" (Proverbs 31:10).

When the wife responds first to the Lord and then in the abundance of that relationship serves her husband, she is ready and able to meet her husband's spoken and unspoken requests. As she responds to the Lord Christ, so she responds to her husband. Vulnerability and abuse are not times to give up on God's love. God's love and power never stop even in the midst of persecution.

In a great marriage, each spouse is looking to God to meet their needs. Every problem is an opportunity to trust God for a solution. Trust enables the wife to put aside her fears one by one. Instead of being rigid and hardened, her face becomes increasingly calm and soft.

Just as the warm spring sun causes flowers to open wide in their brilliant glory, a husband's consistent agape love breaks away those reserved fears that hold back her total trust and lead his wife to full bloom.

* A Wife's pledge A prayer of the wife

"Dear Father in Heaven, I humble myself before your mighty throne. I accept my body, my gifts and calling to serve at my husband's side. My faith is weak. I tend to forget your constant love. Please forgive me and yet be near me.

I have only one husband and he will I serve. Grant me trust in your wonderful protection that I might faithfully carry out my duties however rigorous or menial. You are my true Protector and Provider. Let me know more of your awesome love.

Lord, please grant me Sarah's gentle and quiet spirit. Grant me a husband who is able to be more sensitive to You and your truth through my life. By the grace and blood of Christ, God's only Son, I pray. Amen."

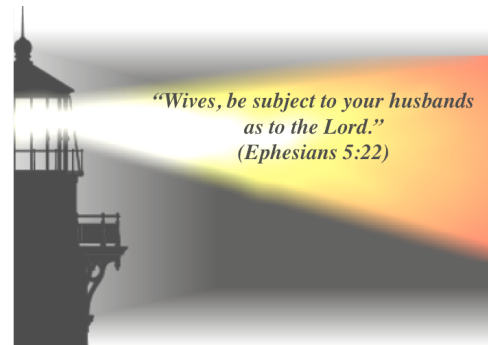
➔ Home Project

➔ (1) Husbands must work through this commandment to unconditionally love his wife.

- Pray daily for your wife
- Once a day thank your wife for her faithfulness
- Love your wife more

➔ (2) Wives are to pray for their husband to constantly love. You will need to be wise to know how to encourage him on this journey. The best way is for him to see change!

- Repent from a self-seeking spirit.
- Pledge yourself to do what your husband wants
- Daily ask God to fulfill your needs with His love.
- Cheerfully serve without complaint



BGM #3 Answers Humble Submission
• Loved • Chosen • Bought • Belonging • Share
(1) She will subject herself to her husband in everything.
Husband and wife should keep their independence
Poor Argument #3: Submissiveness allows
(a) A Tender Response