



Ephesians 5:21-24

Submission in Christ

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Submitting to One Another

Ephesians 5:21 (ESV)

submitting to one another **out of reverence for Christ.**

- "Submitting" is the 5th present participle that modifies "being filled with the Spirit"
- Mutual submission is a way we preserve the "unity of the Spirit" (Eph. 4:2, 3)
- We must respect what God has done to put others in the body of Christ

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Submission as to Christ

Ephesians 5:22 (NASB)

Wives, be subject to your own husbands, **as to the Lord.**

- Paul's apostolic teaching is the source of this, not the culture
- In the Christian family, the wife's submission to her husband is as to Christ
- Paul wants Christian families to show love and respect as grounded in Christ

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Husband and Wife in Christ

Ephesians 5:23 (LEB)

because the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church (he himself being the Savior of the body).

- The husband-wife relationship is modeled on the relationship of Christ to the church
- Christ rescued the church and protects us
- This implies leadership and provision, never domination or harm

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Function Does Not Imply Value

Ontological Equality

Relational Distinctions

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The Church's Submission to Christ Is the Example for Wives

Ephesians 5:24 (NASB)

But as **the church is subject to Christ**, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

- Paul's repetition shows emphasis
- As submission to Christ cannot imply sinning, submission to husbands cannot include submission to sin

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Implications and Applications

- This is normative New Testament teaching that must be taken seriously
- Neither the world nor past sin can be allowed to define Christian relationships

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The Bible Defines Our Family Relationships

Colossians 3:18-21 (NASB)

Wives, be subject to your **husbands**, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. **Children**, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. **Fathers**, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

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The World Mocks Christians

Jude 17-19 (NASB)

But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they were saying to you, "**In the last time there will be mockers**, following after their own ungodly lusts." These are the ones who cause divisions, **worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit**.

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