

MUTUALLY SATISFYING MARRIAGE – PART II

EPHESIANS 5: 22-33

(This is the 9th in a series of messages entitled *The Worthy Life*)

Submission – it’s not a popular subject here in America. Can you think of a popular song or a movie or even a recent best-selling book on the subject of submission?

Defiance, on the other hand, is the opposite of submission. We love that here in America. Now there’s an easy list of movies, songs and best-selling books.

Submission is something we shy away from, in fact, it can be seen as a weakness, something that will not only hold you back from advancement, but also as something that can utterly destroy your life as well. So when the Apostle Paul writes - “*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord*” (Eph. 5:22) is this just for a sandal aged culture steeped in misogynistic prejudices or could it be that we misunderstand the biblical concept of submission?

The word submission literally means, “*to place yourself beneath someone else.*” It carries the idea of giving way to another person and putting them first in your life. Submission means asking yourself on a daily basis, “What can I do to make my partner’s life easier? What can I do to make him more complete?” As we will see this quality of life is indispensable to a mutually satisfying marriage because it is the fertile soil in which intimacy grows and matures.

Idea: Biblically constituted marriage between a woman and a man calls for an *ordered equality*. The shared goal of marriage is “*oneness*” (i.e. intimacy) which grows deeper when there is servant leadership and mutual submission.

Biblical Principles for Godly Women

1. Pursuing _____ is what always matter most (v21 – “fear of God”; v22 –To the Lord”)
2. Godliness abounds when _____ is preeminent
3. Therefore purpose to make ministry – not _____ – the goal for your marriage
4. _____ as an equal partner is the catalyst which God uses for a wife to minister to her husband
 - to come under someone else’s decisions,
 - to assume responsibilities which we carry out in the most cooperative fashion possible and to
 - to carry a burden”.

Misconceptions of Biblical Submission

1. Submission is not grounded in any supposed _____ of the husband or _____ of the wife (cf. Gal. 3:28; 1 Pet. 3:7)
2. Submission does not mean that everything a wife does must be directly _____ upon her husband
3. Submission does not entail _____ and/or _____ (Prov. 31:26; Acts 18:26)