

✍ We've now spent 2 sessions together looking at the husband's blueprints and now we are going to look at the wife's page of the blueprints for a happy home, Ephesians 5:22-24.

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### **1. The Bible teaches that wives are to submit to their husbands.**

- ✓ It does not teach that women in general are to submit to men in general, this is strictly for the marriage relationship. In everything from angels to animals, God has ordained a chain of command. Since God created the man and the woman and marriage, God has a right to ordain the leadership chain in that marriage. Additionally, the submission that God requires of wives is the same submission that God practices in the Godhead, the Trinity submits to one another in order. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:3, it is from this that we get our true understanding of what submission is, as always, we don't get to make up our own definitions.
- 1) Jesus submits to God the Father, is Jesus not equal to the Father? This is critical theology for us! If Jesus is not equal to the Father, He cannot save us since only God can save. It is blasphemous to say that Jesus is anything less than God in His fullness.
- 2) This type of Submission implies equality. In fact, it demands that we recognize the equality of the situation since without equality this submission is moot.
- 3) This Submission means to voluntarily put oneself underneath the authority of another who is equal to you.
- 4) This Submission is imperative when there is a chain of command.
  - ✓ Let's be perfectly frank, God did not look into the family unit and pick and say, "I'll pick the prettiest of the two to lead" or "the most capable" or "the smartest one" to be the head of the family. The fact is, ladies, you may be the better of any or all of those things in your marriage. Those factors have little to do with why God ordained leadership the way He did within the marriage. Intelligence and capabilities are not top priority in a chain of command leadership situation. What are top priorities are, receiving and following orders from the top and taking responsibility for the outcome. He doesn't have to be very smart or capable to receive and follow orders from God's chain of command. Here is the Chain of Command, God the Father to God the Son to God the Holy Spirit to the Head of the Home to the family. God will always seek to direct the home through the chain of command.

### **2. Our families and marriages are failing, why?**

- ✓ A Simple Answer, Husbands aren't being the servant leaders God's called them to be and wives are not submitting to their leadership. Again, we don't get to make up our own set of blueprints and ask God to bless it. It is because of that that we are having so many problems. We adopt the blueprints of our society and culture because it agrees with our sin natures. Our society did not create marriage or the man or woman, which is why its blueprints do not work. "Never let a looser tell you how to win." Our society is miserably losing at the game of marriage and family. God never loses; therefore, you will never see a truly successful marriage and home that does not follow God's blueprints.

### **3. What does a wife submitting to the leadership of her husband look like?**

- ✓ Ephesians 5:22, "As to the Lord" that is, the same as you would submit to the Lord. That is some heavy stuff, isn't it? This passage is full of heavy stuff equally distributed among the sexes: Husbands are to be saviors, sacrificing his needs, laying it all down for his wife, the Husband plays the role of Jesus in this skit called marriage. Wives are to submit to their husbands the same way they would submit to the Lord, Heavy! "As to the Lord," Submitting to the Lord means to abide in Him; to rest in Him; To trust and lean on Him; to abandon oneself to the Lord as the leader of your life, submitting is an expression of confidence. Notice it is the same for wives to husbands, Ephesians 5:23-24.
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## The Corinthian Letters, Lesson 30, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:1-5, Blueprints for A Happy Home, Part 4

- 1) You must accept your husband as the leader of the marriage, having confidence in God working through him to lead in your decision making. Do you believe that God is able to work and lead through your husband despite his shortcomings and failures? Can you say, "God, I trust you even though I don't trust my husband all the time."?? The two have become one flesh, thus they now only have one direction that God leads them both and that direction will come through His ordained chain of command. This does not mean that you do have input, but only as much as your husband has input. If he's receiving orders through the chain of command, there is not much to discuss. You are in an equal partnership, but your husband has primary responsibility. It doesn't mean he is the wisest or smartest, it just means he is responsible for whatever happens. Wives, give your husband a chance to be who God has called him to be.
- 2) You must give of yourself to him. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:1-6, the emphasis here is what's on the inside: "beauty is only skin deep" NO! real beauty has nothing to do with skin. Beauty flows from what is inside the heart. The Proverbs 31 woman was a wife in whom her husband had total confidence, chaste conduct equals godly inside and out making her husband trust in her. This also answers a big question among believers: "What if my husband isn't a believer? Do I still submit to him?" 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:1, yes, but he will be won without words. "What if my husband wants me to do things that are wrong and against God's word?" You are under your husband's authority until he wants you to break God's authority.

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