

(NOT TO BE HANDED IN)

D2: THE HOME—BIBLICAL SUBMISSION IN MARRIAGE

(See questions, page 2)

Some thoughts for understanding biblical submission in marriage:

1. A wife's biblical submission displays the church's submission to Christ (Eph. 5:22-33).
2. A wife's biblical submission is a powerful tool in God's hands to potentially win the heart of a husband who is disobedient (1 Peter 3:1-6).
3. Biblical submission includes a wife looking for ways to be a suitable helper to her husband (Gen. 2:18-25; also, consider the example of Aaron and Hur's help for Moses in Exodus 17:8-13 as discussed in lesson 10).
4. Christ is our example of submission (1 Peter 2:21-25).
5. God is faithful to conform my heart to His as I earnestly seek Him in prayer for a transformed, submissive heart (Ro. 8:29; 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18).
6. Submissive character is produced by God's grace in our lives (Titus 2:11-14).
7. Submission is done in LOVE (Titus 2:4).
8. I am to submit "as to the Lord" (Eph. 5:22; Colossians 3:18)—it is in obedience to the Lord, and out of trust in the Lord; it is **not** based on the worthiness of my husband.
9. Submission does **not** mean I am free to contend with his decisions, as long as I "give in" in the end.
10. Submission does **not** mean that I am to obey my husband if he wants me to sin.
11. Submission does **not** mean that I do what he wants, but I let him know by my attitude that I'm not happy about it.
12. Submission is **not** an excuse for NOT dealing biblically with my own sin and with his, as my brother in Christ (see Matthew 7:3-5—log and speck). However, godly submission will guide me to use prudence regarding when and how this is helpful. At times it is wise to overlook an offense (Proverbs 19:11).
13. Submission does **not** give me permission to indulge self-pity, to be self-righteous, or to have a superior attitude when my husband makes a poor decision.
14. Submission does **not** mean that I can't respectfully, humbly go to my husband, asking if he'd be willing to discuss something further. However, godly submission will guide me to use discretion regarding whether or not this is necessary or helpful, and to time it wisely.
15. Godly submission will be done with joy and thankfulness, not a victim's attitude.
16. Godly submission is **not** easily offended or overly sensitive. It doesn't assume the worst.
17. Godly submission agrees as often as possible (Proverbs 19:13b, "The contentions of a wife are a constant dripping").
18. Submission is to be voluntary on the part of the wife.
19. Godly submission honors my husband's preferences—it's being loyal and choosing to joyfully get behind him and support and encourage him and the things he values. His mission becomes my mission. I am his cheerleader!
20. Submission and obedience are also commanded in Scripture for other spheres of authority, including God, the family, the church, work, school, and government (Ro. 13:1-5; 1 Co. 16:10-16; Ep. 6:1-3, 5-6; Col. 3:20, 22; Tts. 2:9; 3:1; Heb. 12:9; 13:17; Js. 4:7; 1 Pe. 2:13-25; 5:5).
21. If a woman's husband is involved in ongoing sinful activity, and is unresponsive to biblical Matthew 7:3-5 and Matthew 18:15 appeals to change, God's word directs the wife to other God-given authorities such as her church leadership and/or local government (i.e., law enforcement, in the case of sinful illegal activity) to help her evaluate and discern what her submission to her husband should look like.

- Which thought on *what submission is* particularly impacts you, and why?
- Which thought on *what submission is NOT* particularly impacts you, and why?
- How might these thoughts on submission for marriage be applied to your attitude towards other spheres of authority in your life (e.g., family, school, work, government, church)?
- How might they help you prepare for marriage if that is in your future?