

God's Woman
A Wife Who Submits to Her Husband
Ephesians 5:22-24

- I. Submissive partnership focuses upon the wife's own husband (5:22a).
 - A. "Submission is actively seeking ways to please God through the support, help, and encouragement of your husband."
 1. It is voluntary.
 2. It is to one's husband only.
 - B. What submission is not
 1. It does not imply inferiority.
 2. It does not imply suppression.
 3. It does not imply passivity.
 - The "no-problems" wife
 - The "dying-inside" wife
 - The silent, "spiritual" wife
 - C. Why is there resistance to biblical submission of the wife to the husband?
 1. Ignorance
 2. Fallen human nature
 3. Some aspects of the contemporary feminist movement

- II. Submissive partnership requires a sense of servanthood (5:22b).
 - A. Wives, is your primary concern in life with the cultivation of inner beauty for the glory of God?
 - B. Are you allowing internal struggles to go unattended?
 - C. Is there another man in your soul?
 - D. Do you give more time and attention to other interests than to your husband?
 - E. Do you resist your husband's decisions?
 - F. Do you resist your husband's expressions of affection?
 - G. Do you seek your husband's counsel on important decisions?
 - H. Do you make financial decisions without consulting your husband?
 - I. Do you take matters into your own hands?
 - J. Do you support your husband's decisions and cheerfully assist him in fulfilling them?
 - K. Do you keep yourself attractive in appearance in order that your husband may be glad to have everyone know you are his wife.
 - L. Are you continually quarrelling and fighting with your husband?

- III. Submissive partnership is an expression of the creation order (Eph. 5:23; 1 Cor. 11:3-12; 1 Tim. 2:11-13).
 - A. The husband exercises his headship over the wife in redemptive love.
 - B. The submissive wife:
 - S erves God by seeking ways to please her husband for the glory of God
 - U nder the authority of God and His Word
 - B elieves she is a complement to her husband.
 - M inisters to her husband by "embracing his mission and vision" in life
 - I nclination to follow her husband's leadership and a disposition to yield to the husband's authority
 - T akes her place as his companion

- IV. Submissive partnership aspires to fulfill the standards of God's Word (5:24).
 - A. The submissive wife chooses to act on behalf of the welfare of her husband.
 - B. The submissive wife looks upon her home as being a primary responsibility (Tit. 2:4-5).
 - C. The submissive wife accepts her responsibility as a "helper" to her husband (Gen. 2:18).
 - D. The submissive wife receives willingly her responsibility to satisfy the sexual desires of her husband (1 Cor. 7:3-5). This is a mutual responsibility.
 - E. Some what-ifs of the submissive role of the wife:
 - 1. What if the wife is asked to do things that would displease God?
 - 2. Is the Christian wife to submit to an abusive husband?
 - 3. Is the Christian wife to submit to an unsaved husband?
- V. Submissive partnership draws upon the enabling power of God's Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18).
 - A. The submissive wife must not grieve the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30).
 - B. The submissive wife must understand what the will of the Lord is (Eph. 5:17).