



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Be Subject To One Another

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Tom McCullough/PO Box 503, Granville, Ohio 43023/tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org /www.capitolcom.org/ohio

The setting is a Roman prison (60-62 A.D.) and Paul is addressing the established Christian (mostly Gentile) church in Ephesus where he was a pastor for several years. In this letter, Paul counters the false teachings that had started to plague the church and additionally provides encouragement and instruction in sound doctrine. While the first three chapters deal with doctrine, the church and the spiritual blessings in Christ, in the last three chapters Paul describes responsibilities of the Christian life. In the fifth chapter of Ephesians, Paul shares that Christians should be imitators of God; walking in love, light and wisdom and to be subject to one another. (Ephesians 5:21-33) NASB

.. be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. (5:21-24)

Be subject to one another. Being subject (submitting) to one another reflects a filling of the Spirit, a reverence and fear to God and is an attitude of service, humility, and order rather than inequality (Ga.3:28). The Greek word for subject/submission is *hypotasso* meaning; to get or place in order; to arrange. Christians are to line up under one another and not to relate as above one another. As is the arrangement of the church being subject to Christ, Paul provides numerous examples in the believer's home and work that creates a Spirit filled orderly environment; the wife to the husband; the husband to the wife; the children to the parents; the father to the children; the worker to the master; the master to the worker; and the people to government (Rm. 13:1-7). To create order in the home, God's intention is that the husband be head of the relationship with his wife, and that the wife humbly and willingly be subject to the husband. How are the husbands to behave in the husband/wife relationship?

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. (5:25-31)

Husbands love your wives. Christ came to serve and not to be served and to give His life (Mk 10:45). Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church and be willing to give their lives for her. Similar to Christ, husbands are to be the 'servant leader' in the home... *"...as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*(Josh 24:15) The Christian husband will seek the will of God for his family and not selfishly for himself.

This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.(5:32-33)

The Messiah and His church. The mystery that Paul is addressing, previously not revealed in OT Scripture, is the NT relationship and magnificent union between Christ and His church, and the marriage of a husband and wife being a reflection of that union.

For your Consideration:

- Do you have an attitude of service and humility toward others?
- Husbands, are you a servant leader?
- Wives, do you respect your husband?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS (SESSION OR HEARING DAYS) AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44

STATE STAFF AND LOBBYISTS: WEDNESDAYS AT 12:10PM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44