

Please be kind and...

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...rewind.

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Wives submit to your  
husbands

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Ephesians 5:22-24

What is submission in a  
Christian marriage and why  
does Scripture call for it?

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# Four Observations about the Context

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1

Paul is giving specific relational examples of what it means to submit to one another.

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Eph 5:21

2

Christian submission is  
compelled by  
our reverence for Christ.

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Eph 5:21

3

The specific relationships he is addressing submission within is that of the household.

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Eph 5:22, 25; 6:1, 4, 5, 9

# 4

The context of all these relationships is within a Christian home.

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Eph 5:22, 25; 6:1, 4, 5, 9

# The Contour of the Passage

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# The Command

Wives submit to your own  
husbands.

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Eph 5:22a

How

As to the Lord

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Eph 5:22b

Why

For the husband is head of the  
wife

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Eph 5:23a

# In What Way

even as Christ is head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior

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Eph 5:23b

# Summary

Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

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Eph 5:24

# In everything?!

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Submission can be abused  
because the wife is in a position  
of vulnerability.

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# What does submission mean?

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Eph 5:22

Submit = To Order + Under

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Matt 28:16



1

Submission is a choice.

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2

The motivation for submission  
has to be determined to  
understand why you would  
submit.

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What submission in marriage  
does NOT mean.

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1

It does NOT mean that the husband is always right.

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2

It does NOT mean  
that the wife must do whatever  
the husband wants.

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# A Biblical Test Case: Submission to Governmental Authority

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Christians are to submit to  
governmental authorities.

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Rom 13:1-7; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet 2:13-17

Christians submit to  
governmental authorities  
because they submit to God.

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Rom 13:1-7; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet 2:13-17

# Biblical Examples of Civil Disobedience

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- **Hebrew Midwives** (Exod 1:17-21)
- **Moses' Parents** (Exod 2:1-2)
- **Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego** (Daniel 3)
- **Daniel** (Daniel 6)
- **The Wisemen** (Matt 2:23-28)
- **Peter & John** (Acts 4:18-20; 5:29)

Therefore, Christians submit to governmental authorities unless it requires them to do evil or defy God.

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3

It does NOT mean that the husband is more qualified to make the decision.

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4

It does NOT mean that the wife should support the husband even when he is sinning.

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“I disagree with my husband so  
I won’t do it.”

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This may be entirely legitimate.

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1 Sam 25 - Abigail  
Acts 5:1-11 – Sapphira

Why do you disagree with your  
husband?

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5

It does NOT mean that the husband is more intelligent.

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6

It does NOT mean that the husband is to be domineering over his wife.

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7

It does NOT mean the husband can demand and have his wife do whatever he wants.

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8

It does NOT mean that the wife  
is to “just take it.”

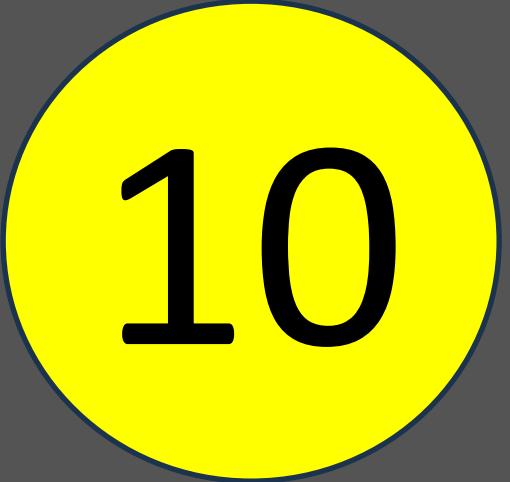
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9

It does NOT mean that the wife cannot speak up and disagree with her husband.

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10

It does NOT mean that the wife  
cannot make more money than  
her husband.

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What submission in marriage  
DOES mean.

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1

There is no area of the marriage  
the wife should not look to  
submit to her husband in.

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2

The wife should diligently and intentionally seek to show her husband respect.

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3

The wife should be kind to her husband.

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4

The wife should live sacrificially  
within her marriage.

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5

The wife must love (and treat)  
her husband as herself.

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Hard cases make for bad law.

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Wives submitting to their husbands within the context of a Christian marriage shows that Christ is Lord and brings glory to Him.

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