

WIVES

To be answered by both husband and wife prior to Session 5

Please read Ephesians 5:21-33 and I Peter 3:1-9.

1. Please list some practical reasons for having the wife maintain an attitude of submission to her husband.
2. In your opinion, what (from Genesis 2) is to be the wife's primary goal in her relationship to her husband?
3. Considering submission, what are some qualities of a good follower?
4. In what ways can a wife contribute effectively to the marriage partnership?
5. How can a wife call something to the attention of her husband without seeming to "nag"?
6. How can differences of opinion be handled effectively and constructively?

Session 5 – The Wife’s Role

Ephesians 5:22-24,33; I Peter 3:1-6

Introduction:

A. Two basic qualities of life

1. Attitude of follower

2. Attitude of helper

B. Complete not compete

I. Follower/submissive

Compares to life style of a disciple

Ephesians 5:21

I Peter 5:5

A. Choice of the will - not natural inclination

I delight to do Thy will

Psalm 40:8

Supernatural work: combination action/power

Philippians 2:12,13

Willing adaptation, not forced subjugation

1. "Be in submission"-continuous present action. Need for constant renewal. Life style.

2. Command, not request

3. To be done by wife, not to her

B. Primarily an attitude - willing

Placing yourself in submission to God

Ephesians 5:22

Definition: "Yielding intelligent, humble obedience to an ordained authority. "

1. Illustration of Christ

Philippians 2:5f

"Mind" refers to attitude, way of real fulfillment (verse 9)

2. Likewise

I Peter 3:1

Cf. /Peter 2:21 f

Submission - directly related to concept of God

KEY: "Trusted to God who judges justly"

3. Church finds freedom in submitting to Christ so wives find freedom not bondage in submitting

Ephesians 5:24

C. Not place of inferiority - God's order of relationships

Genesis 3:16

Ephesians 5:23

1. God will not hold wife responsible for decisions but submission
2. Created with qualities to fulfill roles
3. Mutual fulfillment in functioning in role

D. Does not mean:

1. Intellectual stagnation but continual development
2. Passivity -loss of identity/personality
3. Lack of fulfillment - contrary/way to fulfillment

E. Key to making a leader, being a good follower