

The atmosphere that invites submission
Ephesians Part 33

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:21

Submission is such a key issue in the church and in marriage that Paul takes eleven more verses to exhort the Ephesian church about it. Paul compares marriage to Christ and the church. He says, "For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything" (v.23-24). Do these verses sound a bit archaic in our modern society? As a woman, do they make you feel hemmed in? As a man do you get the idea that you are the boss?

Folks, these verses are beautiful. They are romantic. They are life.

Jesus is such a romantic. He loves to love and loves to be loved. He is our role model in the church and in marriage. Just think if every man was the head of his wife as Christ is the head of his church.

I'll take some love language from I Corinthians 13: 4-8. Here is Jesus as the head of your home. He is patient even when his bride spends too much money on frivolous things. He is kind. He never raises his voice and doesn't get grouchy. He does not envy even when his wife is better at something than he is. He does not boast about how well he has done something but works with humility while recognizing the works of his wife. He is not rude and is quick to recognize hurt feelings. He is not self seeking. He rarely needs to think about himself because he is so absorbed in his bride. He is not easily angered and his tolerance runs so deep that adversarial tension does not exist. He keeps no records of wrongs. There is nothing wrong with his memory; it's just that his love cannot harbor negative feelings. He remembers the good and often talks about it. He does not delight in evil. He is a spiritual protector of righteous things. He rejoices in the truth. There is such pleasure in his voice when the right thing is done that it is a joy to serve him. You will often hear him laugh with pleasure over little things that no one else sees. His love always protects. It is very evident that he will give his life for his loved one. There is no hesitation. He doesn't seem to think about it. He is right there to help. He sees whenever there is a harmful thing about to happen. His warnings are always heeded because he can be trusted. And he always trusts, of course. He seems to know his bride intimately and trust is never an issue because he has taken the time to know his bride's heart. He always hopes. There never seems to be worry around him. It's not that he doesn't care. It's that he has a higher view of things. He knows that it will all work together for good. He always perseveres. He never quits. He is tenacious. He just cannot give up. But he will give in. He just loves his bride and his love never, ever fails. Therefore, his bride submits to him.

As a man, I have to ask myself. Does my love create an invitation and an overwhelming confidence for my bride to submit?