

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*



Worship Guide for June 26, 2022

Sermon Notes

Christian Wives: The Beauty & Power of Submissiveness

Ephesians 5:22, Colossians 3:18, I Peter 2:13-3:6

One of the results of being Spirit-filled is submission. Submission to Christ and to one another is a demonstration of reverence to Christ, acknowledgment of God-ordained structures of authority, and recognition of the Imago Dei (Image of God) in our fellow human beings. In each picture of submission in Ephesians, Paul constantly keeps the focus on Christ.

This is what makes Christian submissiveness such an oddity in this world. It is an expression of light in the darkness; a demonstration of the Lordship of Christ over all things, and a picture of what it will look like when his kingdom comes and his will is done on earth as it is in heaven. The Spirit empowers us to submit by enabling us to see beyond the earthly authorities to the One who stands above all – the Lord Jesus Christ.

In our dark culture, there is no better platform, no more odd and countercultural demonstration of the gospel light than Christian marriage. Christian marriage is a demonstration of the Designer's plan for His Church and, ultimately, the new creation. The Biblical model of marriage opens up a window for the world to behold the beauty of the gospel. Christian marriage is a demonstration of the humble, submissive, self-sacrificing love of Christ. Last week we looked at the roles and responsibilities of husbands, who are called to "love your wives as Christ loved the church." Today our focus is on Christian wives. Paul bookends this section on marriage with the wife's role and responsibility. There is no more odd and countercultural demonstration of this gospel light than the wife's Spirit-empowered submission to her husband. Barbara Hughes says, "When we (Christian wives) submit to our spouses, we are once again agreeing with God that His beautiful ordered plan is worth obeying and the mystery worth preserving. By so doing we once again acknowledge that Jesus is Lord."

The Foundation: Roles & Responsibilities within the Godhead

The Church: The Authority of Christ and Our Submission to Him

The Christian Marriage: Complementarian understanding of equal yet different

The Christian Wife: The Beauty and Effectiveness of Submission

The Challenge: "I get it, but....."

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Know

**What does God intend for me to know?
In your journal, use the following prompts to write
some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

I never knew...	I was reminded...	A question I still have...
I was challenged...	I was convicted...	A truth I could share...
I was encouraged to...		I need to dig deeper into...

Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?
In your journal, use the following questions to write
some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

Is there a command to obey?	Am I convicted to confess any sin?
How am I compelled to exalt God?	Is there a sin to avoid?
Is there a promise to claim?	How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel?
Is there a principle to follow?	How can I pray for someone else?
Is there an example to follow?	What am I compelled to love or desire?

Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write
your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.**

How has our study through this passage helped or challenged you in understanding the God-given roles in marriage?

Why is it important for husbands and wives to understand marriage in a **missional** way?

As we have revisited the design of complementarianism, what are some of the peculiar ways that a Christian marriage should reveal the beauty and reality of the gospel within a darkened world?

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.

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