

Series: Healthy Church

Christian Unity in Mutual Submission

Sunday April 8, 2018

1. *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything (Eph. 5:21-24).*

2. HUPOTASSO = "submit" = "to obey or to yield to someone else's counsel."

3. What does "mutual submission" in a Christian marriage look like? Doesn't someone have to be the boss?!

4. "Is the husband the head of the wife?"

5. KEPHALE = "source" of support and nourishment – like Jesus is to His body: the church

6. *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church – for we are members of his body.*

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church. However each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband (Eph. 5:25-33).

7. Why did Paul tell wives to submit and husbands to love?

8. How should a Christian husband love his wife?

- a. A Christian husband should be willing to make sacrifices for his wife.
- b. A Christian husband should make the spiritual well-being of his wife a #1 priority.
- c. A Christian husband should care for his wife like he cares for his own body.

9. 3 questions to consider:

- i. What blesses her?
- ii. In what ways does she think she's inadequate?
- iii. What energizes her?

10. *Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" – which is the first commandment with a promise – "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Eph. 6:1-4).*

11. How are we doing as children? How do we honor our parents? Would we know, for instance, what blesses them, what makes them feel inadequate, what energizes them?

Do we know their love languages? Do we do and say things to keep the relationship moving forward as best we can?

12. How are we doing as parents? What are our goals for parenting? What plans do we have to teach them about Jesus? How can we help each other? How does our role change as our kids age out of our homes? How do we parent and co-adult at the same time?

13. *Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.*

And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him (Eph. 6:5-9).

14. How are we doing as workers? Can we be trusted to work wholeheartedly – even when the boss isn't looking?

15. How are we doing as bosses? Do we treat our employees fairly and with respect – as people – not just tools to get stuff done?

TAKEAWAYS

1. How do you submit to your spouse or parent or boss – out of reverence for Christ? How does your love for Christ help you choose to choose the best for others and from others?

2. If someone asked you, "Is the man the head of the home?" what would you say? What does that look like in your home as a husband, as a wife?

3. All Christians are called to a life of submission and love. How do we live this way in a culture that can see both as kinds of weaknesses?