

What Is Submission (“Be Subject”)?

- Submission means, “*subject oneself, be subjected or subordinated, obey*” (BDAG).
- Although the term “obey” has become unpopular today in modern wedding vows, 1 Peter 3:5-6 says, “being submissive to their own husbands; just as Sarah obeyed Abraham.” The word “obeyed” here means, “to follow instructions, *obey, follow, be subject to*” (BDAG).
- Ephesians 5:24 indicates that wives are to be subject to their own husbands as the church is subject to Christ. The marriage relationship is a living illustration of Christ and His church!

What Is Submission (“Be Subject”)?

- Does submission mean that a woman is inferior in any way to her husband? No! See 1 Cor. 15:28; Lk. 2:51.
- Submission speaks of role.
- “...the woman was *made of a rib out of the side of Adam*; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.” (Matthew Henry, commentary on Gen. 2:21-25).

SPHERES OF SUBMISSION

Christ

All believers are on the same level, and all must submit to Christ (Gal. 3:28). This submission supersedes all others (Acts 5:29).

Household

Every member of the household is spiritually equal (Gal. 3:28). Submission does not indicate inferiority (1 Cor. 11:3; Luke 2:51), but *distinctive roles* that require submission. The husband is the head (Eph. 5:23), wives are to be in submission to their husbands (Col. 3:18), children are to obey their parents (Col. 3:20), and slaves are to submit to their masters (Col. 3:22; 1 Pet. 2:18).

Church

All are to submit to the pastor (Heb. 13:7, 17), and to the Lord (Eph. 5:24)

State

Everyone is to be in submission to earthly laws and governmental authorities (Rom 13:1; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13).