

A photograph of a wedding couple standing in a field. The bride is wearing a white dress and the groom is in a dark suit. They are holding a large white umbrella over them. The background is a soft-focus field of tall grass or reeds.

**A
Practical
Guide to
Understanding**
*Biblical
Submission*

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This Guide Will Cover the Following...

What is Biblical Submission?

What's the Foundation of It?

What's the Purpose of It?

Why Do We Struggle with It?

What Are the Benefits for Following It and the Detriments for Not Following It?

What are the Common Misconceptions and Lies Surrounding It?

What is Biblical Submission?

There's a lot of confusion and controversy surrounding the principle of Biblical Submission, but in reality, it's really a simple concept.

The Greek word for submit is: *hypotassō*

- 1) to arrange under, to subordinate
- 2) to submit to one's control
- 3) to yield to one's admonition or advice

Biblical Submission is a **choice**. Just like when Jesus made the **choice** to lay down His life for our sake. No one forced Him to surrender His will, Christ did so because He wanted to.

Biblical Submission means to **yield** to another person. Jesus **yielded** to God's will rather than His own. The Father did not bully Christ into yielding to His redemptive plans. Jesus made the **choice** to lay down His life for our sins.

As wives, when we make the **choice** to Biblically submit to our husbands, we are doing so because we are following God's plan for our lives, not because we are forced to. We are not choosing to submit because we're weak-minded, we choose to submit because it's God's command and we're seeking to please our Father.

♥ “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.”
Ephesians 5:22-24

♥ “Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.” Colossians 3:18
Our ultimate authority in marriage is God, Both husband and wife are to submit to Him and to one another. **Submitting to one another in the fear of God. Eph. 5:21**

Husbands have a command as well. **“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her. Eph. 5:25**

Sometimes a wife will be faced with a situation where she should not submit to her husband. He may be asking her to sin; to do something that is contrary to the Word of God. Wives are not to submit to their husbands *sins*. When you look at the verse in Colossians, wives are to submit with a condition; to submit as fitting in the Lord. A good question to ask yourself is this: *Is it God-honoring if I submit to my husband in this situation? Or would I be sinning against my Lord?*

We are daughters of the Most High God first, then wives second.

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The Foundation of Biblical Submission

Christ, our Lord and Savior, is our example of complete Submission. Friend, He didn't argue with what God was calling Him to do. He **chose** to pour out His life for us. He **chose** to surrender and yield to His Father in spite of the fact that He was perfect, and in spite of the fact that He didn't deserve to die on the Cross for our sins. He **willingly** wanted to please His Father, therefore, He submitted to Him.

When Christ walked on this earth He was what Submission looked like. No one forced Him to do anything, yet, He yielded/ submitted to the will of His Father.

- ♥ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than Himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Phil. 2:3-8

But before Christ came, there needed to be a reason for His coming. God sent His only Son for us because of the sin that took place back in the Garden. [Thank you, Eve](#). Eve couldn't see **the bigger picture** when God told them not to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **"but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."** (Gen. 2:17) God created us, and Eve, to have free will. The gal lived in Paradise, yet, she still didn't want to listen and submit to God. She thought she was wiser than the Creator of the Universe. Again, she couldn't see **the bigger picture**. She didn't realize there was a sly Serpent who was going to twist God's words ever so slightly causing her to be deceived. She bought Satan's lie...hook, line, and sinker. God, in His infinite wisdom, was protecting Adam and Eve from the Deceiver when He gave them the command to not eat the fruit. But they couldn't see **the bigger picture**.

Sometimes, as God's children, we can't see the bigger picture.

- ♥ Therefore submit to God. James 4:7

The Purpose of Biblical Submission

Because of the Fall back in the Garden, God needed a plan of redemption for His children. We all know the story. God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ to die on the Cross for our sins.

But the purpose of Biblical Submission in marriage is part of God's redemptive plan for marriage.

Seeing that God is the one who created the institution of marriage, He knew His sin-filled children needed a plan, a blueprint, a guide to fulfill the design of Christ loving the Church. That's a tall order to represent in marriage! But because God is sovereign, He gave us commands in the Word, that when we're obedient to the Scriptures, our marriages will reflect that sacrificial, yet glorious, love. *Oh, be still my heart!* ♥ No Hollywood romance movie could hold a candle to the type of marriage that God intended!

♥ “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.”
Ephesians 22-24

♥ “Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.” Colossians 3:18

God didn't dish out these commands so we could feel like second-class citizens, He put these commands in place so we, known sinners, could have a better marriage! These commands bring peace and harmony into the marital relationship, not strife. When we act in our flesh, then we'll be living in strife. If we're obeying God's command to submit and respect, the natural by-product is good, not evil.

And for women who are married to non-believers, God provides a way to help you win your man to Christ. Through His word, God is still trying to protect you and love you and give you what you need. It is through your Godly conduct as you submit and respect your husband that you might bring him to the Lord. And when a man lives to please Jesus Christ, his command is to love his wife like Christ loves the Church. Every woman wants to be loved like that! And God offers a plan to do just that.

♥ “Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.”

Why We Struggle with Biblical Submission

Back in the Garden, when Adam and Eve went outside of God's plan for their lives, they were faced with the consequences of their sins. The woman's consequence was in childbearing; pain in the actual birthing of children and the pain in raising them. (If you have children, then you know that raising a little tyke filled with sin is no easy task!) But the other consequence we received was our desire to control and rule over our husbands.

♥ To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." Genesis 3:16

Because of our sin, it is our natural tendency to fight to be in charge. We come wired to contend with our husbands no matter if we have an easy-going personality or a strong-willed one. Both personalities are from God and both receive the same consequence.

All women are quarrelsome to some degree.

We can't get away from these flesh-filled tendencies unless we're walking in the Spirit and dying to the desires of our flesh.

♥ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Gal. 5:16

Over and over again, God keeps reminding us in His Word not be a quarrelsome wife because He knows the tendencies of our flesh.

♥ "Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife." Proverbs 25:24

♥ "A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a rainy day." Proverbs 27:15

♥ "The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down." Proverbs 14:1

We may not like the fact that God put our husbands as the head of the home. But He did so to protect us.

♥ And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. I Tim. 2:14

Now we can argue with the Creator of the Universe about this all we want, but I truly believe that God has our best interests at heart, He knows what we need, and His ways are much higher than our own.

What Are the Benefits for Following It and the Detriments for Not Following It?

Benefits to following God's Way for your marriage.....

- You are honoring God by submitting to Him and His Word.
- You are giving honor and respect to your husband when you submit to him. A man needs to receive respect from his wife because this makes him feel loved. [When he feels respected, it makes it easier for him to pour out his love for you.](#)
- You are ultimately living out a marriage that is contrary to the ways of this world. Your marriage is a sacrificial love; the type of love that Christ has for His children. Your selfless, loving marriage is like a beacon of Light in this dark world.
- You will have harmony in your home.
- Your children will feel secure and loved when the atmosphere of the home is filled with peace and joy.
- Your Christ-centered marriage will ultimately bring glory to God.
- This path will lead you closer to Christ as you walk in the Spirit.

Detriments to not following God's Way for your marriage....

As wives, if we are constantly seeking to have our own way in marriage, then the following can take place:

- Unforgiveness.
- Bitterness.
- Anger.
- A platonic marital relationship.
- Possible Divorce and extramarital affairs.
- Strife in the home.
- Children not following the Lord.
- Children choosing the wrong spouse. Continuing the same pattern that was emulated by their parents.
- We are disobeying God and we're outside of His will for our lives.
- Our walk with the Lord will suffer because our self-centered ways will draw us away from the Lord.

When we live to please ourselves and have no rules, no order, no consideration, no respect and love for one another, we live in chaos. Our world is a pretty good example of this type of lifestyle right now. Everyone for himself. A 'me, me, me' kind of attitude. Self-centeredness does not represent our Savior in any way, shape or form. When we bring this approach into our marriage, then guess what? You can expect to have a miserable marriage!

♥ Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. Psalm 86:11

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The Common Misconceptions and Lies Surrounding Biblical Submission

Have you heard some of these statements from the world, or worse yet, those that are in the Church?

- A woman who submits to her husband is a doormat.
- She can't think for herself.
- She needs a man to tell her what to do.
- She's like a Stepford wife.
- She has no backbone.
- She is weak, and only those who do submit, are women who have docile personalities. Surely the strong-willed, outspoken, highly opinionated, leader-type of woman is not required to submit to God's plan because that would go against her personality.
- When a woman submits to her husband, she's considered a second-class citizen.
- She's viewed as a slave and not equal to her husband.
- She blindly follows her husband without asking any questions.
- She's not allowed to talk back to her husband when she disagrees with something.
- If a wife submits to her husband, it will lead to him abusing her. **(Disclaimer: A wife is not to submit to his sin, so if a husband is abusive, get out of your house!)**

All
Lies!

Don't listen to one word of what's said above even if the person professes to be a Christian! The Enemy will continue to distort the Truth of Biblical Submission.

These are all lies and misconceptions of what Biblical Submission truly is.
And it's totally contrary to the Word of God!

- ♥ Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." Genesis 2:22-24

We are not less than our husbands, we are one flesh.

We are called a Holy people. We are set apart from the world. A Godly woman should look different than the women who follow the ways of the world. Don't grow weary in doing good.

- ♥ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9



Jolene Engle was once a feminist who denied the existence of God until the Lord transformed her life in 1996. In 1998 she married the man that God chose for her; her Beloved Solomon, also known as her husband, Eric. For 10 years of her marriage she battled chronic and debilitating illnesses at the onset of motherhood. For the past 5 years of her life, Jolene and her husband have faced financial ruin and they have lost their home not just once, but twice.

Even though her tiara is broken and her gown is tattered, she still lives as a daughter of the King. As a broken vessel herself, she serves her Savior through her on-line writing ministry of [*The Alabaster Jar*](#) where she loves to encourage, equip, and inspire other women to learn how to pour out their lives at the feet of Jesus like the perfume from an Alabaster Jar.