

“Living and Loving in the Home - Part One” 1 Peter 3 & Ephesians 5

1. In 1 Peter 3 and Ephesians 5, we see the issue of submission—specifically biblical submission in the home. When people in our culture today see commands like “be submissive” (1 Peter 3:1) or “be subject” (Ephesians 5:22), how can these ideas be mischaracterized?
2. Kent Hughes writes: “Sin and the Fall of Adam did not create headship and submission; it ruined them and distorted them and made them ugly and destructive. But the redemption which Christ brings is not the *dismantling* of the original, created order of loving headship and willing submission but a *recovery* of it from the ravages of sin.”

How can Christian husbands and wives greater reflect God’s created order of loving headship and willing submission?

3. Read Ephesians 5:22 & 24. According to these verses, how should wives be subject to their husbands?

What must the husband always be committed to in regards to his wife?

4. How should husbands serve their wives? See Philippians 2:1-8.

What should our submission to Christ look like? Should we submit in a grudging way?

What should be our attitude?

5. These passages do not teach spiritual inequality. We are “equal heirs of the grace of life” (1 Peter 3:7). Husbands and wives have an equality of worth, but a difference of role. Submission does not mean surrendering thought or never respectfully disagreeing. A wife should be her husband’s primary counselor. What should be the husband’s focus (Ephesians 5:25)?
6. Marriage has great power to enhance our joy in the pursuit of God’s pleasure and His purposes for our lives, but an unhealthy marriage also has the power to bring grief and stifle us spiritually. Marriage can be helpful or hurtful; it can be fuel or frustration. We can live in blissful wedlock, or in bitter deadlock. Is your marriage in need of renewal? Is there a marriage close to you that is need of revival?

Consider inviting another couple to join you at our next session of *re/engage* (our marriage enrichment class) as you look to recommit your marriage to the gospel and God’s Word.