

Marriage Class

Week 5: Submission, Headship, and Service to Christ Above All

Introduction:

The Biblical Framework: Authority and Submission in God's Design

(Genesis 2:18-24; 1 Timothy 2:12-14; Genesis 4; Proverbs 31: 10-12, 27-28; Gen 3:16; Ephesians 5:32; 1 Corinthians 11:3)

The Husband's Role: Leading for God's Will

(Ephesians 5: 25-33; Genesis 18; Romans 4; Colossians 3:19; 1 Peter 3:7)

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The Wife's Role: Partnering in God's Will

(Ephesians 5: 22-24; 1 Peter 3: 1-6; Proverbs 31)

The Joyful Goal: Service to Christ Above All

(Ephesians 5:31-33; 1 Peter 3: 5-6, 7)

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Discussion Questions

For everyone: Why do we struggle with authority and submission? How does the gospel help us overcome that?

For Couples:

1. How can you, as a husband, ensure your leadership reflects God's will rather than your own desires this week? How can you, as a wife, actively support him in that effort? Discuss one specific way you can work together on this.
2. Husbands, what's one way your headship has blessed your wife recently—or could this week? Wives, how has your submission blessed your husband—or how could it? Share your answers and pray for grace to keep blessing each other.
3. Where do you each struggle most with pride or selfishness in your roles (leading or submitting)? How can you humbly serve each other in that area this week, relying on the gospel and leaning into your role? *Application:* Identify a practical step (e.g., apologizing, yielding a preference) and follow through.
4. Your roles are meant to bring joy, not burden. What's one thing you appreciate about how your spouse fulfills their role? How can you make your partnership more joyful this week? *Application:* Plan a small, intentional act to celebrate your teamwork (e.g., a shared task, write a little note of thanks).
5. How can you use Scripture and the church to hold each other accountable in your roles? Discuss one way you can invite godly input (e.g., a mentor, a Bible passage) into your marriage this month. Commit to reading a relevant passage together (e.g., Ephesians 5:22-33) or seeking advice from a trusted church member.

For Singles:

1. How does the biblical framework of authority and submission challenge or encourage your view of marriage? What's one way you can trust God's design over the world's ideas this week? *Application:* Memorize a key verse (e.g., Ephesians 5:23-24) and reflect on its meaning for your future.
2. Men, what's one area of godly character (e.g., humility, courage) you need to grow in to lead a future wife well? How can you start working on it now *Application:* Take a practical step (e.g., serve someone, study a godly leader like Abraham in Genesis 18).
3. Women, how can you cultivate the right kind of strength and humility now to support a future husband's leadership? What's one way you can practice dying to self this week? *Application:* Think about yielding a preference to serve the Lord this week, and act on that, trusting God.
4. Where do you struggle with submitting to authority (e.g., parents, church leaders) in your life now? How can overcoming that prepare you for marriage? *Application:* Identify a situation to humbly submit in, praying for God's grace to shape your heart.
5. How can you use your church community to grow into a godly spouse? What's one way you can seek accountability or learn from married couples this month? *Application:* Attend a church event or ask a mentor specific questions you have about your future marriage roles.