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## Ephesians - Part 8 (Relationships)

This part of the study pertains to relationships and covers parts of chapter 5 and 6. Our way of thinking is always manifest by what we do - especially how we act in relationships with close family, friends and strangers. You might say, it is where the rubber meets the road - or, the proof of what you profess to believe. The things described in the Bible are to be applied primarily inward. However, the outward at times closely resembles the inward.

### **Ephesians 5:**

Verses 21-23: 21. *Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.* 22. *Wives, submit <sup>(G5293)</sup> yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.* 23. *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Savior of the body.* A husband and wife are used as an allegory of the Christ and the church. The principles described in the next few verses apply to both, to marriage and to our being spiritually wed to Christ. So, a wife being subject to her husband is likened to members of the body being subject to Christ, and individuals being subject to what they believe. What is the Biblical concept of submission? How does this apply in our everyday life? What does submit or not submit mean?

Biblical submission IS NOT one person controlling another. It is not a wife being ordered around like a slave to every whim of her husband, nor any person treating another as they must do their bidding. That is the way the flesh operates. Look at verse 22 again: a key phrase regarding the wife's submission to her husband is, as unto the Lord. Does the Lord force submission? Or, is our submission by our own choice?

**Psalms 106:39-42**: 39. *Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions.* 40. *Therefore was the wrath of the Lord kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance.* 41. *And he gave them into the hand of the heathen; and they that hated them ruled over them.* 42. *Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection <sup>(H3665)</sup> under their hand.*

The same Hebrew word for forced subjection is used also for voluntary subjection. The word *kana* <sup>(H3665)</sup> is a primitive root with a primary meaning of to bend the knee. In a negative context the word would indicate *bring into subjection, subdue, humble*; and in a positive way to bend the knee would be *to show humility, obedience, a voluntary attitude of giving in*. In the example above, Israel became disobedient to the ways of the Lord, so when He backed away, the result was their enemies oppressed and subjected them to their ways. On a personal level, the main enemy is our corrupted way of thinking, which brings spiritual bondage. Therefore, every relationship must be personal AND as unto the Lord in order to work. There is always two sides in any relationship, and depending on the parties, different ideas may apply. While there is more said about husbands and wives, each entity is similar, as all submission is to be as unto the Lord.

Wife: *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church...* (Eph 5:23). **1 Corinthians 11:3**: *But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.* The last verse outlines gospel order ordained by God, which in His wisdom, is for the benefit of all mankind. This idea comes from the root of the Greek word *hypotasso* <sup>(G5293)</sup>, which