

# Ephesians

*More than a Makeover*

## **“Who’s The Boss?”**

### **Ephesians 5:21-24**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / June 1, 2025*

**Ephesians 5:15-5:24** “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

#### **I. You need to know that every growing, obedient, Spirit-filled Christian is a submissive Christian.**

Biblical submission is the voluntary alignment of oneself under another’s leadership in order to reflect the character of Christ.

**Ephesians 5:21** “...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

A. If you’re a Christian, you’ve been called to a submissive life.

1. We’re supposed to submit to God.

**James 4:7** “**Submit yourselves therefore to God.** Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

2. We’re supposed to submit to governing authorities.

**Romans 13:1-2** “**Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.** For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.”

3. We’re supposed to submit to church leadership.

**Hebrews 13:17** “Obey your leaders and **submit to them**, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

4. We’re supposed to submit to each other.

**1 Corinthians 16:15-16** “Now I urge you, brothers—you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints— <sup>16</sup> **be subject to such as these, and to every fellow worker and laborer.**”

B. Obedience and submission are not the same thing.

<b>Obey</b> ( <i>hypakouō</i> )	<b>Submit</b> ( <i>hypotassō</i> )
<b>action-oriented</b>	<b>attitude-oriented</b>
typically from a <b>subordinate</b> (child, servant, etc.)	typically from an <b>equal</b> (wife, believer, Jesus)
<b>external</b> compliance	<b>internal</b> willingness
<b>commanded</b> and expected	<b>voluntary</b> and offered
emphasis on <b>doing</b>	emphasis on <b>yielding</b>
can be <b>forced</b>	must be <b>chosen</b>

## II. Submission is about roles, not rank. It's about order, not value.

**1 Corinthians 7:1-5** “Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: ‘It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.’ <sup>2</sup> But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. <sup>3</sup> The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”

**Ephesians 5:22-24** “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.”

A. Your posture—how you submit matters.

**Ephesians 5:22** “Wives, submit to your own husbands, **as to the Lord.**”

B. Your **purpose**—why you submit matters.

**Ephesians 5:23** “For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior.”

C. Your **person**—Who you're ultimately submitting for matters.

**Ephesians 5:24** “Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.”

## III. You'll never find a greater example of submission than Jesus!

**Luke 22:42** “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me. Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.”

### Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. Where do you most struggle with submission right now—toward God, leaders, or others?
2. How does the posture of “submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ” change the way you view relationships within the church?

3. Recall the difference between outward obedience and inward submission in your own life. Can you think of a time you obeyed instead of submitting?
4. What does it practically look like to “submit to your own husband as to the Lord”? How is that different from simply doing what he says?
5. Where in your life is God calling you to submit with joy—not because the person is worthy, but because He is?