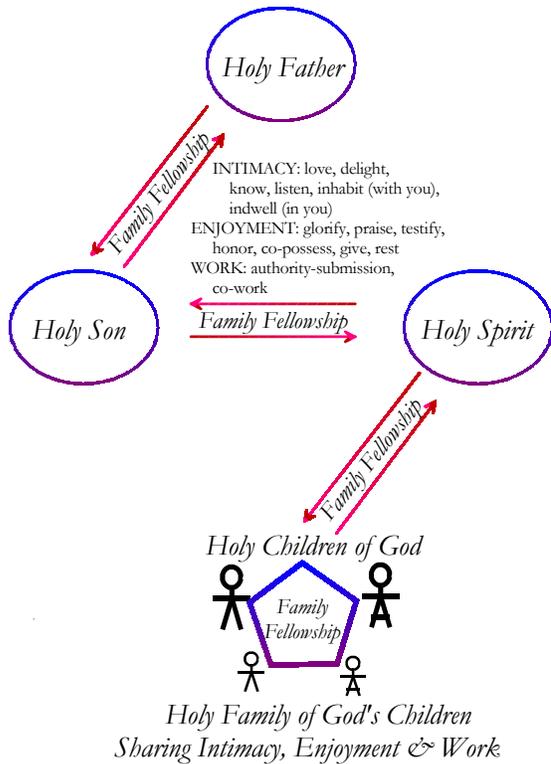


**The Fellowship of the Trinity with & imaged in the Christian Family**



1 John 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

NIV Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 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. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- 30 for we are members of his body. 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32 This is a profound mystery-- but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33

However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Text develops evidences of transforming grace working in your lives. This is not a traditional Jewish culture oppressing women, children or slaves in all other natural cultures around the world as the Christian message goes out to all the nations. **Human authority and submission are transformed under the powerful authority and humble submission of the exalted Christ.**

**I. ORIGIN OF PROBLEMS WITH AUTHORITY AND SUBMISSION**

*Genesis judgment on the woman? Submission & desire for dominance?*

"The woman is frustrated within her natural relationships in the home: painful labor in bearing children and insubordination toward her husband. Control has replaced freedom; coercion has replaced persuasion; division has replaced multiplication. . . . Her desire will be to dominate. . . . Ironically, the man will dominate (lord it over) her." Bruce Waltke's *Genesis* commentary, p. 94

***Godly dominion has been turned to destructive domination.***

Genesis 3:16 To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. You will *desire* [to dominate/ oppress] your husband, but he will *dominate/ oppress* you."

For parallel on *desire* and *dominate/ oppress* see NIV Genesis 4:7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; *it desires to have [dominate/ oppress] you, but you must master [dominate] it.*

HOLWICK'S ILLUSTRATION COLLECTION      Number: 1186  
SOURCE: Christianity Today magazine TITLE: Life After Eden AUTHOR: Mary Stewart Van  
Leeuwen PAGE: 19 DATE: 7/16/90

ILLUSTRATION:

Looks at Genesis and especially Acts, which describes the fourth act (Pentecost) in the 5-part Biblical drama of salvation, to discover what it reveals about the role of women. Both men and women receive the Spirit. Being witnesses of God's salvation to a lost world is more important than gender roles. Not only are men and women both created in God's image, they also share in having dominion over the creation.

In Genesis 1 and 2, Adam and Eve are given dominion and social unity (like unity of Godhead?) In sinning, Eve overstepped the bounds of accountable dominion and Adam overstepped the bounds of human social unity.

**Genesis 3:16 is interpreted as referring to women's unreciprocated longing for intimacy with men. Bilezikian writes: "The woman wants a mate and she gets a master; she wants a lover and she gets a lord; she wants a husband and she gets a hierarch." Van Leeuwen says the peculiarly female sin is "to use the preservation of relationships as an excuse not to exercise accountable dominion in the first place."**

Feminism is right about one thing: male domination of women is evil and wrong. Yet feminism's diagnosis of the problem doesn't go deep enough. Feminists tend to exclude themselves from the category of "potential abuser of power" and see themselves and just getting what they should have had all along. But who hasn't heard of a mother dominating her son? Historically, men have much to repent of in the way of domination of women. Yet we must recognize that the desire for domination is a universal problem in every human heart, male and female. Men dominate other men and women. Women dominate other women and men. Various kinds of domination by those in authority are still obvious today: emotional abuse, verbal abuse, physical abuse, slavery, destruction, pillage, racism, rape, and terrorism.

Jesus' positive view of women strongly contrasts with prevailing view of his day. He balanced male and female images in his parables, insisted on monogamy and eliminated divorce, valued the family of God over human families, and allowed women to be first witnesses of resurrection. Out of 633 verses on women in the gospels, almost none of them is negative in tone. He was preparing men and women for the "Emancipation Proclamation" of Pentecost. #1186\*

## **II. PUT OFF ROLE REVERSAL PROBLEMS**

**A. Men put off abdication of authority as a way of avoiding problems or engaging emotionally. Not feeding or caring for wife as your own body. Insensitive, rude, forgetful. No goal for helping your wife become more holy through prayer, patient listening and sharing Christ with her. Just self-centered. You only pay attention to your wife to get what you want from her and just enough to prevent major conflict.**

### **B. Women put off domination.**

Feminism teaches that the way to liberation is Lordship over men. Do to them what's been done to you. Abuse them as sex slaves, be rude to them as chauvinists, look down on them as the archetype of all that is wrong with the world.

*Resisting husband's legitimate authority:* My wedding renewal of vows service: Didn't review the vows with the couple first. So I got to the part in the wife's vow, "I promise to love, honor and submit

to you as the church does to Christ” she just about choked on the words and mumbles the “submit” word and went on with it. By the look on her face, she was quite shocked.

HOLWICK'S ILLUSTRATION COLLECTION      Number: 1358  
SOURCE: Church Newsletter (?) TITLE: The Rules AUTHOR: Submitted By Ellen Haynes,  
Given By Doris Schrum(?)

ILLUSTRATION: THE RULES between men and women:

The FEMALE always makes THE RULES.  
THE RULES are subject to change at any time without prior notification.  
No MALE can possibly know all THE RULES.  
If the FEMALE suspects the MALE knows all THE RULES, she must immediately change some or all of THE RULES.  
The FEMALE is never wrong.  
If the FEMALE is wrong, it is due to a misunderstanding which was a direct result of something the MALE did or said wrong.  
The MALE must apologize immediately for causing said misunderstanding.  
The FEMALE may change her mind at any time.  
The MALE must never change his mind without the express written consent of the FEMALE.  
The FEMALE has every right to be angry or upset at any time.  
The MALE must remain calm at all times unless the FEMALE wants him to be angry or upset.  
The MALE is expected to read minds at all times.  
Any attempt to document THE RULES could result in bodily harm.  
The FEMALE is ready when she is ready. The MALE must be ready at all times.#1358\*

But you must consider that male chauvinism and the backlash response of feminism are really two wrongs that do not make anything right. The answer is not striking back and getting your rights at the expense of male authority.

I share about husbands loving their wives

**What does the strong husband look like in a grace transformed marriage?**

### **III. TWO KINDS OF AUTHORITY:**

- **Everyone has to submit to something or someone, somewhere.**

**Largest categories:** Submit to the Lord or to the Devil, the world and the flesh. *Screwtape Letters* on the devil's wish to remain temporarily anonymous in the tempting process?

- **A. Put off authority that destroys and enslaves:** Male machoism's attack on the very idea of sacrifice for women as weak and feminine.

HOLWICK'S ILLUSTRATION COLLECTION      Number: 771  
SOURCE: Star Tabloid AUTHOR: Rebecca Barnes PAGE: 19 DATE: 10/18/88

ILLUSTRATION:

Arnold Schwarzenegger has rocky relationship with Maria Shriver. He acts like a tyrant, showing her how to wash dishes and demanding meals when he wants them. When she replied, jokingly, "Make it yourself," he said, "Don't ever talk back to me again! You are my wife and I want breakfast now!" A guest was present.\*

**When sin, the Devil or the world overcomes you, you are it's slave:** "Banquet in the grave" Proverbs 7:27 NIV 2 Peter 2:18 For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. 19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity-- *for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.* 20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.

**Related issues:** How do you define threats to your authority and how do you respond when threatened?

*Different opinions on disputable matters:* **Put off hyper-sensitivity (angry backlash, pouting, accusation, cold treatment, resort to "divorce" threats) to your wife's differing opinions as a threat to your authority.**

When you must insist that your wife submit to you, you have probably missed some crucial points of what your role should look like. The way to establish and maintain your authority must come through being transformed by grace and following the example of Christ's authority in the power of the Spirit. **The authority of Christ was established in men's hearts when he gave them life in the Spirit** and wrote the law on their hearts, while the authority of the written law was preparatory for that real change of heart (Gal 3:1-5, 21-25; Heb 10:15-16).

## **B. Put on authority that renews, heals, restores to created purpose and makes holy**

### **1) SYMBOLS OF AUTHORITY:**

Authority is given reward those who do good and punishment those who do wrong:

**Government** → uses the sword of justice (Rom 13:4); that is, power of military, police, life & death punishments, restraining violent evil with violent enforcement of laws if necessary.

**Church** → uses the keys of the kingdom (Matt 16:19): church discipline, that is, determines membership & excommunication, joining or exclusion from the body, including authority to instruct and to correct, rebuke, train in righteousness (1 Tim 4:12-16; 2 Tim 3:13-17; Tit 1:9).

**Master** → uses sword and rod (Luke 12:46-48): rewards trustworthy servants (Matt 25:21), casts out the worthless servants (Matt 25:30).

**Parent** → uses the rod of discipline (Prov 13:24; 23:13-14): (theocracy also has a sword/stones to punish unruly children), but primarily concerned with *instruction* in the Lord, and *discipline* = temporary, acute physical pain to prevent larger offenses later in life. Wives do have authority over their children. Her authority over her children should be modeled on the loving caring and feeding example shown by her husband.

**Husband** → uses persuasion by self-sacrifice: uses authority to become servant, wash feet, dying to make her holy, enforces the marriage covenant, chooses as helper, has authority to divorce.

### **2) PRESENT TENSE IS THE HEAD, IS THE SAVIOR. FEEDS AND CARES FOR**

**AS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH, HIS BODY, OR WHICH HE IS THE SAVIOR. While on the earth, he demonstrated his authority** over the wind, waves, the human body (healing), human salvation, demons, enemies, physical objects and food (feeding 5000, walk on water, rolled away stone of tomb). He is seated on the throne at the Father's right hand. Human marriage is modeled on the heavenly pattern of Christ and the church. We are to study that pattern if we want to improve a marriage and change a marriage.

**Christ feeds** (see 6:4 *same Greek word* **Father's must do this for children too, there with the idea of teaching, feeding with truth at appropriate levels and times**) = giving Word gifts to

the church & teaching and pastoring the church through his under shepherds and the mutual gifts of body life (4:11-16). **He defines the ONES for the church:** NIV Ephesians 4:4 There is *one body* and *one Spirit*-- just as you were called to *one hope* when you were called-- *5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism*; *6 one God and Father of all*, who is over all and through all and in all.

APPLICATION FOR HUSBANDS: you need to interact with your wives on biblical perspective on their situations and struggles:

Bad example: I tried to tell Barbara what the Scriptures meant with a proud attitude that I had all the answers and she was basically dumb.

Good example: Barbara asked me for help with a PASS group lesson plan and I was able to give her some suggestions about how to move the topic in a more biblical direction. Recently, when dealing with some issue related to authority and submission between the Ray of Hope offices, I was able to help Barbara develop some guidelines defining roles more loosely and give more freedom and trust to prevent conflicts in the future. We often need to do this when we discuss how to handle our kids.

**Christ cares** for the church (see parallel use of Greek word in 1 Thess 2:7-10, where Paul likens himself to a nursing mother caring for her children by giving the Thessalonians both the gospel and tent-making to avoid burdening them with support needs so he would have extra to give to them) (high priestly ministry of praying for the church (implied in 5:25-27), **filling with the Spirit** (1:23, 5:18) giving armor to the church to stand against the devil (6:10-17), mutual body prayer life (6:18-20). **He supplies the ONES for the church:** NIV Ephesians 4:4 There is *one body* and *one Spirit*-- just as you were called to *one hope* when you were called-- *5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism*; *6 one God and Father of all*, who is over all and through all and in all.

**3) Past tense** Special reference to the death of Christ: **loved=gave himself up for her (clearly a reference to 5:2--**NIV Ephesians 5:2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and *gave himself up for us* as a **fragrant offering and sacrifice to God**. This does not mean he has stopped loving the church, but the significance of his sacrifice is ultimate and unrepeatable.

**4) Future tense** **CHRIST'S GOAL: To make her holy (future tense) in order to present her to himself as a radiant church. Christ does in perfectly.**

Notice the greater percentage of the instruction is given to husbands. Perhaps they were in greater danger of abusing their authority than women in general were in danger of fighting against their submission?

#### **IV. WHAT DOES THIS RESTORATIVE AUTHORITY LOOK LIKE?**

**A. Directional:** You only use your authority for loving, feeding and caring for her in way that promotes her growth in holiness (and prevents her sinful self-destruction). Thus you give her much freedom. You use your authority to restore relationships by grace and forgiveness. You call fighting people together to make peace. You have a general concern for the spiritual growth of your wife (or those under your authority). When you make decisions you will ask yourself (and ask your wife): "*How will this decision affect the spiritual growth of my wife?*" "*Will it make her bitter and resentful and stunt her spiritual growth?*" Focus on creating a climate of trust and security, letting people under your authority know that you care and will make decisions that promote their best interests. Everything you decide will be for God's glory and \_\_\_\_\_'s good.

**B. Consensual:** You will try to *make decisions based on consensus* rather than independently making a decision without consulting your wife and then expecting her to submit to it joyfully and unquestioningly. You lead by persuasion and earn trust that you really are concerned for her best and will not demand your way when it will cost her much more sacrifice than it will cost you. Scripture proofs for this principle: "Live with your wives in an understanding way," 1 Peter 3:7. General instruction to church elders: "Not lording it over those entrusted to you," 1 Peter 5:3. Must you wait for \_\_\_\_\_ to agree or change before you make any decisions? Not always, but usually.

**C. Pro-actively sympathetic:** where ever she hurts, you comfort, whenever she in joyful you rejoice. When she is tired, you take some of her jobs and let her rest. This requires observation and communication to be aware of needs. Not wives nagging their husbands “Why don’t you love me more?” (Husbands do need reminder, some more often than others). No this looks much more like **body nerves** (autonomic nervous system, parasympathetic nervous system) so **sensitively tuned to the needs of our own body that we pro-actively respond to the needs**. Ephesians 5:28 In this same way, *husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies*. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, *no one ever hated his own body*, but he feeds and cares for it. **These are love language issues.**

*Bad example:* Three days of ignoring Barbara by absorption in my own world or project used to lead to her cupboard slamming and dish-rattling. I was slow to pick up on other clues. My autonomic & parasympathetic nervous system was not very sensitive and definitely not making pro-active responses to address the needs. *I was not loving her like my own body!*

*Good example:* Pro-actively offer to make dinner when she is tired or out at the ROH office. Give her a back rub when her back is tense. Ask about taking a walk together so we can talk.

**D. Liberated:** At its best, godly husbands display a freedom from declaring, defending, trumpeting, or bragging about this authority. *Notice that the Ephesians 5:21-33 text does not ever tell the husband to insist that he is the boss*. Nor will the godly husband belittle or Lord his authority over his wife. In general, the more this is a husband’s focus (defending, proving, demanding this authority), the less he really understands how to use it wisely. **FREED FROM THE LAW OF AUTHORITY (or manipulative authority) AND BROUGHT INTO THE LIBERTY OF LOVE**. You will never use your authority to command submission just to get your own selfish way.

*Methods of obtaining this love for wives:*

Prayer that roots and grounds you in the love of Christ 3:17

*Models of authority that heal:* Prayer of Ephesians 1:17-23 Power that raised Jesus to the highest place of authority and placed all things under his feet. He uses authority for the praise and glory of his Father (1:3, 6, 12, 14) and our good (2:4-10).

The authorities over you are told to be fair, respectful, loving, sacrificial and kind as examples to those under their authority (Rom 13:1-4; Eph 5:25-31; 6:4, 9; 1 Pet 3:7; 5:2-3). But your submission to their authority is not conditional to those qualities. Abusive authorities are warned that God is the ultimate authority over them and he will reward and punish in like measure with the mercy or violence meted out (Col 3:25-4:1; Eph 6:9; Luke 6:37-38).

## **V. TWO KINDS OF SUBMISSION**

**A. Historical & Legal context** making this a HOT TOPIC with strong opinions related to the limitations of submission: Declaration of Independence (early American history ingrained in many people as a just and right thing to do: NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION), HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: right of the ruled to elect their rulers, right of countries to overthrow other unjust rulers of countries, or the right of armed rebellion, right to sue or take legal action to prevent injustice or abuse by police, family members, women’s liberation movement/feminism, child protections against abuse.

**B. Problem** with NIV Ephesians 5:21 *Submit to one another* out of reverence for Christ. This cannot mean that everyone submits to everyone else. Though Paul’s usual usage or “one another” is universal, in this case, it must mean that in the following roles (wives, children, slaves) submit to each other [who has been given authority to heal and make holy (meaning, husbands, parents and masters)].

**C. Put off submission that manipulates to get what you want (or fear of submission)**

*My Big Fat Greek Wedding*: Tula's mother preparing her for marriage: 'Man is the head, but woman is the neck and she turns the head where ever she wants.'

Quasi-Christian views of submission: it works the best to get what *you want*.

When we don't want someone to feed and care for us to further God's purpose of holiness, then we resist God's work in our lives.

*Where do these ideas come from?*

In gwansyi-oriented relationships, you may feel like you are building up a certain amount of credit by helping or giving to another person. At such time as you need a favor or help, you draw on those gwansyi-credits you have built up in the relationship bank. You expect people to give a little back for all you have given to them. When they do not return the favor gladly or refuse to help, do you become enraged? This may indicate you are not *liberated from legalism* in relationships. You are operating on a "win-their-favor-when-their-eye-is-on-you" mentality. This text indicates that liberated people under authority submit because they are submitting to the Lord, and expect the Lord to reward them (Eph 6:8). NIV **Ephesians 6:5** Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 6 Obey them *not only to win their favor when their eye is on you*, but like slaves of Christ, *doing the will of God from your heart*. 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. 9 And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

**D. Put on submission that responds to feeding and caring in order to become holy**

Church submits to Christ: men must do this as well as women

Members must submit to church leaders. NIV 1 Corinthians 16:15 You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have *devoted themselves to the service of the saints*. I urge you, brothers, 16 *to submit to such as these and to everyone who joins in the work, and labors at it*.

Paul's parallel teaching on wives' submission: NIV Titus 2:5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and *to be subject to their husbands*, so that no one will malign the word of God.

**1) The purpose of submission: to become more like Christ**

**2) How does the church submit to Christ?**

Much freedom to determine application

Much dispute and discussion among believers about what Christian obedience looks like

Some very explicit commands with very broad applications

Church submits by maintaining unity in the bond of peace 4:3

By bearing with each other in love 4:2

By being completely humble and gentle 4:2

By receiving gifts and using them to God's glory 4:11-13

By speaking the truth in love 4:15

By every member building up the whole as each part does its work 4:16

By communicating in ways that build up, rather than get angry/bitter 4:26-27

By not joining with the works of darkness 5:7

**3) Power for submission:** "Be filled with the Spirit" 5:18, as the fullness of the exalted Christ who has authority to fill everything in every way 1:23. **Admire the beauty of Christ's submission to the Father. Lamb who was slain.**

**4) Motive for submission:** “*in the fear of the Lord*” (Eph 5:21)—that is, in view of the fairness of God, his omniscience and his coming judgment, submit to those in authority over you (see Paul’s use of *fear* in 2 Cor 5:11 & 7:1). NIV Ephesians 6:7 Serve wholeheartedly, *as if you were serving the Lord, not men*, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. 9 And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that *he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him*. See also NIV Colossians 3:25 *Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism*.

## **VI. WHAT DOES GODLY SUBMISSION LOOK LIKE?**

I want to develop a general description of submission drawn from all the examples and contexts of submission, therefore this description will lack some of the nuancing of each particular role. We can do this because there are very similar instructions given to all under authority and all in authority. However, we can see the larger framework first, then try to understand the requirements of each nuanced relationship in greater detail at another time.

### **1. Unconditional to the Character/Temper/Qualifications of Person in Authority:**

**Submit as unto the Lord, (because these authorities are established by God Rom 13:1-2)** so that submission is not conditional to the nice attitude of love, respect, fairness of the husband, (or the authority over you) but based on the love of Christ for you as his church, and in obedience to him who sees you and knows your motives. Even threatening, harsh masters, father’s who provoke their children to anger, husbands who are harsh, church leaders who are bossy, selfish and rude must be obeyed *in the Lord* (Eph 6:9; 6:4; 1 Pet 3:1 “wives, *in the same way* be submissive” *as 2:18 and 2:23* and context of harsh and unfair treatment).

What if your husband doesn’t love you, care for you or feed you? What if he uses his authority to command something that is selfish (only benefits himself, while causing you much more work)? What if your teacher is lousy, your boss is an impatient tyrant, your Mom or Dad is a screamer who only seems to think about him or herself? **Do you have to obey a morally corrupt Bill Clinton as President of the USA as a US citizen? Yes**

You may have superior abilities, knowledge or wisdom compared to your authority—this is very common, but not a reason for rebellion. You may protest at times or try to persuade your authority to consider a wiser decision or action (Daniel and vegetarian diet—persuaded to try his method for a test period and compare). Submission does not always mean silence.

### **2. Conditional to the Moral Direction of the Authority Commands:**

**conditionality of submission=**

**resist authority that prevents you from obeying the Lord’s command**

**or resist authority that commands you to do wrong.**

**Expect to be persecuted, abused, mistreated, or killed for your resistance.**

**Examples: PREVENT YOU FROM DOING RIGHT:** Daniel ordered not to pray on pain of death. He refused and was thrown into the lion’s den, but God delivered him (Dan 6). Apostles commanded not to preach in Jesus’ name. Apostles refused to submit (Acts 5:29) and were beaten and released.

**COMMAND YOU TO DO WRONG:** Hebrew midwives told to kill the baby boys in Egypt (Exod 2). They sidestepped this. Daniel’s three Jewish advisor friends commanded to bow to golden idol. They refused and were thrown into the fiery furnace, yet God delivered them. (Dan 3).

**3. Directional: You submit as a way of growing in holiness.** You learn to respect and admire the goals of your authorities: justice, discipline, and working towards mutually beneficial goals.

The goal is beneficial to you. Holiness looks like meekness and gentleness under even harsh and threatening authority. That is, you get the benefit of learning to be patient, and that is a way to grow in holiness. Further, and more important, submission to the godly authority in your life *responds to biblical instruction & counsel* regarding your own heart, life and situation.

4. **Inconspicuous: serving the Lord, not making a big show of submission when husband is watching or listening only but in heart rebelling.**

NIV Ephesians 6:5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 6 Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or **free**.

5. **Liberated:** Consider a godly government working to serve and protect cooperative citizens. Hopefully we have all seen examples of good management leading a productive and employee honoring factory or business or school. We've seen movies about good teachers leading an inquisitive and responsible classroom or a parent guiding a curious and teachable child. What does the liberated women, (child, "employee") look like in a grace transformed marriage?

In every case those in submission under wise and godly authority figures are FREED FROM THE LAW OF SUBMISSION AND BROUGHT INTO THE LIBERTY OF RESTORATIVE JOY IN FULFILLING YOUR CREATED PURPOSE IN MARRIAGE. *Your joy is in your husband's delight!* NIV Romans 13:3 . . . Do you want to be **free from fear of the one in authority?** Then do what is right and he will commend you.

When Barbara changed her mind to return to Taiwan for a second term, she was freed from the law of submission into the liberty of finding God's will and her joy in that return. People liberated under authority find joy in healthy friendships and marriages.

## **VII. FLAVOR OF MARRIAGE**

The *flavor* of each marriage is different with different balances between temperaments and personalities. Some wives are more outspoken and opinionated and husbands more quiet and less concerned about even having an opinion about things. Nor does submission mean that every little decision needs your husband's approval. This text does not condemn wives for making decisions or speaking their opinions.

A. ***You must honor the individual gifts and personal interests given to each person in a marriage and let them be used for best mutual advantage.*** Thus decision-making is not "top down", meaning the one in authority does not make all the decisions on his own. You draw on the wisdom of your wife in areas where she is gifted. You account for her concerns in the decisions you make. Then the rest of the "undesirable" jobs should be divided up more or less evenly or according to available time. (Barbara more financially conservative and will spend time to save money; I am more financially liberal and will spend more money to save the hassle (time wasted/lost) of shopping at several stores for the lowest price). I learned to let her do the shopping around for the big purchases.

B. ***Focus on what you are giving, not what you are getting.***

The nature of the commands given in Ephesians 5:22-33 show that each is responsible to do what God commands him or her. God sees and he will reward you for what you have done (Eph 6:5-8). Thus the command to husbands to love and sacrifice for his wife should be self-enforcing, rather than nagged by his wife to do it. The command to submit should be self-enforced by the wife rather than commanded by the husband.

However, as both husband and wife submit to the One Lord by the One Spirit, they will find that they have more and more agreement about what things matter and more and more patience to see God work changes where there are deep differences.