



St. Michael's Church
CHARLESTON, SC

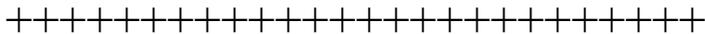
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2016

Ephesians 5:21-6:4
Gospel: John 3:14-17

PREACHER: THE REV. AL ZADIG, JR.

HELP US LORD TO BE SO CONNECTED TO YOU THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE SERVANTS OF OTHERS.

TAKE OUR LIPS AND SPEAK THROUGH THEM.
OUR MINDS AND THINK THROUGH THEM.
AND TAKE OUR HEARTS, AND SET THEM ON FIRE.



Okay, this fall and since I've been back from Sabbatical, and if you're keeping score...

- ✓ The Chicago Cubs won the World Series
- ✓ Donald Trump won the presidency
- ✓ And Clemson was beat by Pitt by one point.

What a crazy fall!

Today we are going to give you a break from all the presidential election hoopla...

And talk about something even more controversial...

Marriage, and not just marriage, but marriage in the context of the word:

Dare I say..

Submission.

As we continue our fall preaching series in Ephesians, we come to one of the most controversial chapters in all of Scripture, that one line:

Women, submit to your husbands.

Quick disclaimer...

You might be here this morning:

- ✓ Single
- ✓ Or too young to be married just yet

This sermon is for all of us

because as a Christian family, we must return to God's ideal for marriage,

And even if unmarried here, be advocates and intercessors for those who are.

And remember, we need to know our homes are the training ground for all future marriages, everything we do or don't do teaches the next generation about marriage.

Now, everything we just read about submission is connected to last week's 4-word theme:

Be imitators of God.

Chapter 5 verse 1.

BE IMITATORS OF GOD in every part of our life including our marriages.

To understand why Paul writes so strongly about submission in marriage, we need to understand what was going on in Ephesus at the time.

It makes our culture look puritan.

- ✓ Jews had a horrible view of women, she had no legal rights and was simply the possession of her husband.
- ✓ A wife could not divorce her husband unless he was a leper..
- ✓ Yet a husband could divorce his wife for any cause he wanted.
- ✓ At this time, home and family life were near to being extinct and fidelity was non-existent.

So when Paul writes on marriage, he's not trying to reclaim something lost, he's trying to establish a new world order!

A new social order based on the relationship of Jesus Christ to the church.

And it begins in this word submission.

- ✓ Jesus submitted to God and his bride the church..
- ✓ How? He died for the church.
- ✓ In response, the church submits to Jesus.
- ✓ Out of that model, wives, husbands and children are to submit to each other.

Mutual Submission is how we imitate Jesus.

So, what is submission?

Here's what it's not:

- ✓ Submission DOES NOT mean tolerating abuse of any kind, verbal or physical.
- ✓ Submission doesn't mean being a doormat, or sitting by while your spouse is acting out...
- ✓ Submission also does not imply an inferiority of person.
- ✓ **Submission is not a confession of inferiority!**

Think about Luke 2, Jesus as the Messiah is visiting the temple and returns with his parents to Nazareth.

Out of submission, he obeys his parents by returning to Nazareth.

Did submission make Jesus the Son of God inferior?

Hardly! He remained God!

- ✓ Submission is not inferiority or passivity!

We know what submission is not.

So, let's re-assemble it.

Christopher West wrote a magnificent work on this some years ago called:

Sex, Gender and Jesus..

In it, he re-assembles the two parts of this controversial word:

Sub and mission...

Sub-Mission means...

Put yourself **under** the mission of the other.

As a quarterback proactively puts himself under the mission of the coach.

Sub-mission...

Paul begins in verse 21 saying:

Submit to one another.

It's two way!

It's not just for the wife!

Wives put yourself under the mission of the husband-**and**
Husbands put yourselves under the mission of your wife!

Mutual submission.

The rest of the chapter is how we do that.

Now, for reasons you are about to understand, women you get the long end of the stick here.

Paul provides only 4 verses of instruction to wives, but a full:

NINE VERSES to husbands.

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So, lets begin with wives and work our way to husbands and children.

Wives...put yourself under the mission of your husband!

What is the mission of the husband?

The name Adam means maker. He is called to create, through the work of his hands.

In addition and according to verse 25, his mission is also to love His wife as Christ loved the church.

How did Jesus love the church?

He gave Himself up for her-which lead to his own death on the cross.

God so loved the world that gave his only Son....

The mission of the husband is to give Himself up for His bride! To die to self!

So, ladies how do your come under that mission?

Verse 24, through respect.

Friend and counselor Acton Beard loves to say, there would be no divorce if two things happened in marriage.

- ✓ If Women respected their husbands
- ✓ If Men adored their wives.
- ✓ Men are wired to crave respect
- ✓ Women are wired to crave being adored.

Ladies you may or may not know this, but every man is constantly thinking...

- Do I have what it takes?
- Is it in me to make this...?

Which is why women, don't tear your husband down but respect him.

When a man is respected it's like the flood gates pour open...

- ✓ He opens up,
- ✓ He shows more love to his wife...
- ✓ Which means...
- ✓ the more a woman feels loved, and secure,
- ✓ The more respect she shows to her husband,
- ✓ Round and round it goes and soon you're celebrating your 50th anniversary!

Women, submit by respecting...!

I promise you this works.

Today just start bragging on him,

Brag on his work, complement him.

Not tearing down, but build up and see how that transforms your marriage.

And that means...put your love in the right order.

- ✓ Love Jesus first

- ✓ Followed by your husband..
- ✓ Then your children.

When children are number one,

- ✓ They often grow up entitled which leads to
 - resentment and bitterness in
 - both in children and father!

Women, submit through respect.

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Husbands...put yourself under the mission of your wife!

What is the mission of the wife?

Among a myriad of things...

The name Eve means lifegiver.

The mission of your wife is to bring life into the world!

- ✓ By birth
- ✓ By adoption
- ✓ By godparenting
- ✓ By mentoring
- ✓ By nurturing!

Husbands come under that mission through 3 Key words from Ephesians 5:

- ✓ Adore
- ✓ Serve..
- ✓ Grow..

Your first role after loving Jesus, is to adore your bride.....

I like adore better than love. We throw love around like:

- ✓ loving the Gamecocks
- ✓ Loving grits..

C'mon, our wives are to be ADORED!

As men are wired to need respect.

Women are wired to need adoration.

Quick example of that:

Last week we said we can learn a lot from our dogs,

Our dog Jaz, when we come home goes apoplectic, and if he was heavier he would tackle us!

What if husbands you adored your wife at the end of the day like your dog adores you!

Adoring, unconditionally treating her as the queen of the home.

Submit by Adoring your bride

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Secondly, submit by serving your bride... make her your earthly first before your job.

And don't do what I did.

When Hudson our third child was born in Washington,

my wife had packed her favorite bottle of Champagne in her suitcase to celebrate his arrival.

Right when we were about to celebrate,

A wonderful group of friends came in to see Hudson.

I then poured little glasses of champagne for everyone,

and when I got to my wife...the Champagne ran out.

I will never hear the end of that story.

Serve your bride first in all things!

Lay down the:

- ✓ tv remote
- ✓ and your phone

✓ just to
serve her...
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And third..

Submit by growing her FAITH!

You didn't see that one coming did you!

Paul says love your wives as Christ gave Himself up for the church, to make her Holy, cleansing her with water through the Word!

One of the ways to grow her faith, and yours is this one non-negotiable.

Husbands and wives..

Please Pray together.

For the first many years of our marriage,

Elizabeth and I were spotty at best,

- ✓ but for the last year and a half
- ✓ in the morning
- ✓ before things get crazy,
- ✓ we use this devotional over coffee
- ✓ 10 minutes, it's all it is

Purchase this on Amazon today.

This One year devotional, for couples by David and Theresa Ferguson.

It has been a life changer,

10 minutes, it's all it is!

- ✓ We go through that day's devotional,
- ✓ Talk about our schedule
- ✓ And pray for each other and our children.

This is the best expression of mutual submission that grows mutual faith!

Another way to grow the faith of your wife husbands is through...

Tithing.

Giving back to God 10% of the income he's given you grows your mutual dependence on Jesus.

Tithing brings growth.
Tithing brings security!

It was G-K Chesterton who brings comfort here he said:

“Look, if something is worth doing, it's worth doing poorly.”

- ✓ Don't wait until you feel comfortable enough to pray together, or until you have enough time...
- ✓ Don't wait to tithe until you have a financial surplus to tithe, it will never come.

And I hope your children find you in the act!

That they find you in the act of praying together...

That they find you in the act of discussing the power of tithing and why you do it.

One of my prayers is Lord, as the children come closer to me as their dad and Elizabeth as their mother may they see you.

If they do, peace WILL reign.

Their view of Jesus begins with their view of you.

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This is why Paul says...

Husbands you are head of the household as Christ is head of the church.

How is Christ head of the church?

Through servanthood.

Men, you are head of the home as chief servants!

Not as bosses or control freaks..

No, men we are:

- ✓ The chief confessor and servant.
- ✓ The modeler of Jesus in the home!
- ✓ The chief in getting our family to worship!

Jesus in Matthew 20 says if any of you wish to be great, you must be their servant!

In Fact...

Husbands we will have to give an accounting to God for how we spiritually led our families...

Paul says:

- ✓ While the wife is accountable
 - **to her husband**
 - **but not for her husband.**
- ✓ The husband is accountable
 - **to his wife**
 - **AND for his wife**

Men:

Adore, Serve, Grow.

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Now, we may not all be husbands and wives

But we are all Children:

Children, sub-mit to your parents as to God.

Serve under their mission!

Their mission is to raise you up to know Jesus as your Savior...serve them in that mission regardless of your age!

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The opposite of sub-mission...

Is: self centered-ness.

The same self-centeredness that got Adam and Eve into all that trouble.
What will save your marriage and family:
Is The Holy Spirit.

Mutual submission is only possible when we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

The ability to sub-mit requires the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, to drive this very Gospel into our hearts until it changes us.
And one of the chief roles of the Holy Spirit is to lead us to repentance...

Lord forgive me for being the king and queen of dis-respect and self centered-ness..

Turn it around Lord, fill us with the Holy Spirit,

- ✓ Give us the will
 - to repent
- ✓ The hunger
 - to respect
- ✓ The desire
 - to adore, serve and grow
- ✓ The passion
 - to mutually submit.

The problem is that when we think of submission we might think of the Brazilian wrestling tradition of Jiu-Jitsu.

Wrestling using ground tactics to make the other submit.

In this sport, when you submit it means you tap out, or even pass out.

That's how most of us think of submission, as a **LAST RESORT** resulting in defeat.

But Biblical Submission, what Jesus has done for us, that kind of submission is actually a **FIRST RESORT**,

Sub-mission means we place ourselves into a divine yield...

As a first resort not a last resort!

As Ephesians 5 people we must get out of this understanding that submission means losing.

Submission, serving the mission of the other is winning!

- ✓ Desiring to out serve the other
- ✓ Out encouraging the other!

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Let me finish with what I think brings this all home.

Some years ago a couple got married on a Saturday night, and then decided to go to church the next morning--

Which by the way, is an awesome thing to do.

But after communion that morning, the husband comes back from the Altar Rail in tears.

The wife says...darling, what's wrong?

The husband replies with these unforgettable words:

He says to his wife:

For the first time in my life,

I understand the meaning of the words...

THIS IS MY BODY, GIVEN FOR YOU.

Submission.

Let us pray.