



# KING'S CHAPEL

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## Daily Devotional - 1 Peter Study

Week 4 - Day 3

### Approaching God

**Read Isaiah 55:6-9** - *“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

**Prayer:** Seeking and surrendering to the Lord’s will cannot be contingent upon our ability to make sense of or understand God’s thoughts and plans for our lives. Instead the pursuit of God and yielding to his will must be tied and tethered to the character of God - his nearness, his mercy, his offer of free pardon. *“Father this morning, I start with you. I desire to submit to your will and plans for my life today. Not because I have any idea what you have in store for me, but because you are merciful, good, and because you promise to be near. I need you. Amen.”*

### Husbands & Wives - Part 3

Yesterday we looked further at God’s original design for marriage and Paul’s instructions for how this design might be lived out between husbands and wives, therefore pointing to Christ’s relationship with both the Father and His church. Today and tomorrow we’ll explore further the implications this design pattern has for the specific roles in marriage, primarily for wives today, husbands tomorrow. We’ll also study how sin and redemption have affected these roles.

### Bible Reading & Meditation

**Colossians 3:15-19** - **15** *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. 18 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.*

**1 Corinthians 11:3** - **3** *But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.*

### Read: Headship and Submission - How God Designed Marriage Part 2

Now, let’s turn to the apostles’ teaching of male *headship* and female *submission* in marriage. (Keep in mind that Scripture addresses only male and female roles in the contexts of marriage and the church, not to the realms of politics and business.) The relevant passages read:

- “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....<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...” EPHESIANS 5:22-23, 25
- “Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup>Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.” COLOSSIANS 3:18-19
- “Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands.... <sup>7</sup>Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way...” 1 PETER 3:1, 7

Well then, what did Paul and Peter mean by headship and submission? The verses themselves help us to understand that a wife’s submission to her husband includes the ideas of respect and obedience to an authority *as to the Lord*, or *as is fitting in the Lord*. It is important to note that this submission is voluntary and offered gladly, not coerced. So just as a woman gladly submits to her Lord Jesus, she should just as willingly submit to her husband. A husband’s *headship* of his wife includes the ideas of authority and responsibility in the same way that Christ has authority over, and responsibility for, His church.

Paul’s use of the word *head* in 1 Corinthians 11:3 confirms this interpretation. Of the range of possible meanings for *head*, including *intellect*, *fountainhead*, *spring*, *source* and *authority*, only *authority* makes sense of the verse. By substituting the word *head* with *authority*, you can clearly understand Paul’s meaning: “*But I want you to understand that the authority of every man is Christ, the authority of a wife is her husband, and the authority of Christ is God.*” Remember that Christ voluntarily submitted Himself to the authority (headship) of God when He was incarnate, and yet He was and is equal to His Father. And don’t forget that as a reward for His submission, He was highly exalted (see Philippians 2:6-9). In the same way, wives are taught to voluntarily submit to their husbands as one equal to another. Husbands are taught not to consider their wives as inferiors, but as equal partners worthy of high honor.

Notice that the passages quoted above reflect the creation pattern of leader and helper, and are a departure from the sinful pattern of rule and desire recorded in Genesis 3:16. Therefore, you shouldn’t misread the apostles’ teaching (as many Christians have) as: “Husband, you’re in charge; wife, do what he says.” No, the apostles knew what marriage was meant to be in creation, and what it could be in redemption. Just as the gospel promised the restoration of abundant life for individuals, it also offered a new hope for married couples through the indwelling power of God’s Spirit. Interestingly, the apostles set their teaching on marital roles in the context of instructions for Spirit-filled living. You may have noticed these parallels in Ephesians and Colossians that precede Paul’s teaching on marital roles and responsibilities:

<b>Ephesians 5:18-21</b>	<b>Colossians 3:16-17</b>
“ <i>be filled with the Spirit</i> ”	“ <i>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly</i> ”
“ <i>addressing one another in psalms &amp; hymns &amp; spiritual songs...</i> ”	“ <i>teaching &amp; admonishing one another in all wisdom</i> ”
“ <i>singing &amp; making melody to the Lord with all your heart</i> ”	“ <i>singing songs &amp; hymns &amp; spiritual songs</i> ”
“ <i>giving thanks always &amp; for everything to God the Father</i> ”	“ <i>with thankfulness in your hearts towards God</i> ”

This would indicate that responding appropriately to the teaching on marital roles is a vital part of one's spiritual journey with Christ. This is because headship and submission in marriage functions as an illustration of Christ's relationship with His church. God intended marriage to be a living example of how Christ leads His church with loving authority and how the church receives blessing and honor by submitting to Him.

Now, let's make this discussion a bit more practical. What should happen in a marriage if the husband and wife disagree about a decision that has to be made? It could be a major decision about a job or home, or a more typical decision about disciplining a child or where to go on vacation. Maybe they've discussed the options, prayed, read Scripture, sought counsel and still can't come to an agreement or compromise. For many men the answer is, "I'm the man of the house and you'll do what I say!" But how is this attitude one of biblical love and honor for one's wife? For many women the answer is, "If I don't get my way, I'll make his life miserable!" But how does this reflect an attitude of biblical respect and submission? Where is the harmony of headship and submission in these typical examples? Isn't one's spouse an equal who is worthy of more thoughtful consideration than this?

Let's use a baseball analogy to illustrate a more biblical approach. A husband and wife are a team of two. The husband is the player/coach. His wife is his partner/player. In order to win, they must trust each other, play to their unique strengths, and be aware of their weaknesses. Each gets an opportunity to bat. But in specific situations when they disagree about who should be up to bat, the player/ coach is responsible to make the decision. He must assess the situation and the strengths and weaknesses of his team, and then decide who steps up to the plate. Often a wise player/ coach will put his partner up to bat, trusting her strengths, even when he thinks she may be making a bad call. If the decision turns out well, he gives her the credit; but if she strikes out, he takes the blame. Why? Because it was *his* decision. It was his responsibility to make the best call whether he put his partner up to the plate or himself. And regardless of who strikes out or hits a grand slam, they suffer or rejoice together, because they're on the same team.

This analogy illustrates that biblical headship and submission, empowered by Spirit-filled living, is how husbands and wives can function as truly equal, corresponding partners – one who lovingly leads, and one who willingly follows. Embracing your God-given role in marriage is a significant step toward realizing the mutual benefit, harmony and fulfillment that was lost in Genesis 3:16.

*Today's reading was adapted from "The Journey" discipleship curriculum produced by Perimeter Church*

## Questions for Study

- Look at Colossians 3. How does Paul connect marital roles with spiritual life in general? What parallels or similarities are there in Colossians 3 with Ephesians 5? (see chart above)
- What does Paul mean by *head* in 1 Cor. 11:3? How does this help you understand what Paul means when says that a husband is the head of his wife?
- If Christ is the fully divine, second person of the Trinity, then why does this verse say that God is His head? Isn't that a contradiction? (Compare this vs. with Philippians 2:6-9)