

Basic Disciplines of a Believer: A Mature Believer Yields to Authority

Believer's Family Submission Responsibilities: Men Are Head of the Home Under Christ

Before one can correctly understand "submit" commands and their contexts regarding gender, we must first understand God's established order and design in creation. These commands relate directly to and stem from God's purposeful design of man and marriage. To teach the commands without the understanding of creation is to miss the foundational concepts necessary to make God's plan work. These commands involve God's designed plan, purpose, and position for each gender.

SIMPLE LESSON:

For a simple lesson for the younger classes, you can use the umbrella picture that we handed out last week in Starting Block, and build a lesson around that if you choose.

MAN'S ROLES:

Here is a more detailed study of the man's roles (similar to the woman), which you can use if desired. The key emphasis of the entire lesson is 1 Corinthians 11:3. Man is the head of the woman, and Christ is the head of the man. The man is to lead as God directs.

1. Leader

(The man – the male – is appointed leadership in every realm – home, church, work, government)

But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman [is] man, and the head of Christ [is] God. (1Co 11:3)

- **God created Adam first**
- **God put Adam in the Garden to work in the garden (the woman was given to Adam to help him)**
- **God commanded Adam not to eat of the tree**
- **God called to Adam when Adam hid**
- **God sent Adam out of the garden**

2. Husband

¹⁸ And the LORD God said, "[It is] not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." ¹⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought [them] to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that [was] its name. ²⁰ So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. ²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²² Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. ²³ And Adam said: "This [is] now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Gen 2:18-24)

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord [does] the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife [see] that she respects [her] husband. (Eph 5:22-33)

3. Father

²⁷ So God created man in His [own] image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Gen 1:27-28)

³ Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb [is] a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So [are] the children of one's youth. ⁵ Happy [is] the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate. (Psa 127:3-5)

¹ <A Song of Ascents.> Blessed [is] every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways. ² When you eat the labor of your hands, You [shall be] happy, and [it shall be] well with you. ³ Your wife [shall be] like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table. ⁴ Behold, thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD. (Psa 128:1-4)

4. Provider

¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed [is] the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat [of] it All the days of your life. ¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. ¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you [are], And to dust you shall return." (Gen 3:17-19)

¹⁶ "This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Let every man ('iysh = male) gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, [according to the] number of persons; let every man ('iysh = male) take for [those] who [are] in his tent.'" (Exo 16:16)

²⁷ Prepare your outside work, Make it fit for yourself in the field; And afterward build your house. (Pro 24:27)

⁸ But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (1Ti 5:8)

5. Protector

⁹ And Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand." (Exo 17:9)

² "Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, every male individually, ³ "from twenty years old and above-- all who [are able to] go to war in Israel. You and Aaron shall number them by their armies. (Num 1:2-3)

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. (Heb 13:17 – Specifically for spiritual leaders, but certainly applicable to fathers.)

6. Teacher

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. (Deu 6:7)

My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; (Pro 1:8)

For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son [in whom] he delights. (Pro 3:12)

Hear, [my] children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding; ² For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law. ³ When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, ⁴ He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live. (Pro 4:1-4)

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (Eph 6:4)

¹¹ as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father [does] his own children, ¹² that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. (1Th 2:11-12)