Subjection: Not A Dirty Word

Tony Mauck · Ephesians 5:21–24

INTRODUCTION

- But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.
- Her argument was not with me. Her argument was with the scriptures. Her argument was with what Paul said in Ephesians chapter 5 and verse 24.
- I want to talk about subjection and what the Bible has to say about this topic.

1 Why Is Subjection Viewed So Negatively?

Romans 16; Romans 13:1–2; James 4:7

- Some believe that acknowledging an authority role in marriage places a woman in an inferior status. I want to suggest to you that it does not do so.
- He goes out of his way to mention the significant contributions of women in the cause of Christ.
- The word sub is the idea of under. That's occupying a place under the authority of another. Now that's not demeaning in and of itself.
- You, male or female, need to learn the principle of subjection and practice it in some spheres in your life. And we all need to learn subjection to Jesus.

2 Subjection Does Not Encourage or Justify Abuse of Authority

Acts 5:29; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 3:7

- Subjection in any relationship, and certainly not in the husband and wife relationship, in no way encourages or justifies the abuse of authority.
- God only tells us what to do for our good and for our benefit.
- When you wield authority in any role in any relationship, you need to understand where that authority comes from and how he wields it.
- So there are limits to our subjection to the authority that others wield, right? We must obey God rather than men.
- You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way.

3 Subjection and Relationships Generally

1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2:3–5

- God deems these authority roles necessary. Somebody has to lead.
- Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman. And God is the head of Christ. It was in no way demeaning to Christ to submit himself to the Father.
- Be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.
- Esteem others better than yourselves. Do not merely look upon your own interests, but also the interests of others.

- There is a very real sense in which you are subject to your wife. in terms of seeking the interests of the wife, serving her, putting her needs ahead of yours.

4 What Subjection Is Not

1 Corinthians 7:15–16; 1 Corinthians 7:4; Luke 2:51

- Just like Christ subjected himself to the Father, that was the exercise of his will. Subjection is a beautiful thing. It is the control of your will in a certain direction.
- Subjection is a matter of will. It cannot be forced. And sometimes in marriage, people make the mistake of thinking you can force your wife to submit. You cannot.
- Not something to be withheld, depending on another party's godly subjection to our needs.
- The limit is when the wielding of authority interferes with you complying in your relationship with God.

5 Learn From Christ What Subjection Involves

1 Peter 3:7–9; Ephesians 5:25

- To avoid abuse, each one wielding authority is to do so as Jesus has modeled it.
- Running roughshod over your wife, demeaning her, continually belittling her, will not be excused by the Lord because you have a right to lead.
- Be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kind hearted, humble in spirit. Not returning evil for evil.
- So we need to think about how Jesus has responded to us. And respond in kind to our spouse.
- Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

THE CHALLENGE

Put on Christ and subject yourselves to the will of God. He is the ultimate beneficent ruler. And may you come under his authority and please him.

MY NOTES