

Study Guide for Part 3: The Wife

Ephesians 5:22-24

What does this say is the wife's *primary duty* toward her husband?

What is the *qualifier* Paul puts on the wife's submission in the last part of verse 24?

Who is the wife to submit to in this passage?

Read Proverbs 16:32. Is submission evidence of weakness or strength?

Verse 24 – “In Everything”

Crucial to our modern understanding of this verse is the realization of the historical setting against which Paul penned it. Women in general and wife in particular was *already* submitted to her husband. At first blush, Paul's call to submit was equivalent to saying “keep breathing.” The addition “in everything” gets to the crucial reality of biblical submission. It isn't mere outward compliance, it's complete; more a posture of the heart even than behavior.

With this as a background, read Genesis 3:1-13, 16

In your own words, summarize what happened.

Why did Satan go after Eve rather than Adam?

What does it mean in v. 16 when it says, “Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

Verse 33 – Respect

Paul doesn't *change* his instructions to the wife; he *clarifies* when he says she is to respect her husband.

For Her

What are some positive and proactive ways you can demonstrate godly submission to your husband?

What might you cease or omit to demonstrate submission?

If you treated your girlfriends the way you treat your husband, how long would they remain friends?

Have you in essence said to your husband, “I *love* you but I do not *respect* you”? How would you *feel* if he said to you, “I *respect* you but I do not *love* you”?

To Him

What responsibility does your wife's submission place on you before God? Why is it *unwise* to *demand* your wife's submission?
