

## **Running Your Family By the Book (part 2)**

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### **Introduction**

If you have the desire to be a military or commercial airline pilot, you will spend time in a flight simulator.

Which are machines that on the inside look exactly like a real airplane.

They even move up and down and side to side like a real airplane.

So, one of the benefits is that you get the feel of driving a real plane while still on the ground.

Another benefit is that flight simulators can give you a chance to react to problems like engine failure...

Or a number of other problems that you can't or don't want to experience on a real plane.

If you don't make the right choice in the simulator, the plane isn't destroyed and no one is hurt...

The simulator simply shuts down.

But another great benefit is that flight simulators are cheaper to operate than a real flight.

You don't have the high cost of fuel to deal with on a simulator, which saves airline companies and even the military lots of money...

When they are training new pilots.

One Air Force Squadron saved over \$3 million dollars last year from using simulators instead of real flights.

A final benefit of simulators is that they reveal who will be good pilots without the risk that comes from finding out in the air.

Listen to Air Force Lt. Colonel Dagvin Anderson said about the use of flight simulators..

“It helps tell us even more and the student pilot and his or her work habits.”

“If a student is working really hard and studying well, we will find that out in the simulator.”

“Also, if a student is just studying 30 minutes the night before, we will also see that from the simulator as well.”

In short, flight simulators reveal the best pilots from the safety of the ground.

In the same way, families are flight simulators for the real world.

You show me a husband, wife, or child who gets it right in their family, I'll show you a Christian who can handle any situation.

The reality is that the family is the training ground for life.

Your ability to turn from sin, to walk in the Spirit, to obey the Lord will be first evident in your actions with the ones closest to you.

The old saying that “what happens in the family stays in the family” is not accurate in the Christian worldview.

Actually what happens in the family is an indicator of who a person truly is.

That's why the requirements to serve the church as a elder, deacon or pastor first require a man to be a good manager of his family.

Paul wrote this to Timothy...

“If a man does not know how to manage his own household well, how will he take care of the church of God?” (1 Tim 3:5)

According to the word of God, if a man can't care for his family first, he will also be unable to care for the church.

What that mean is that if I can't act like a biblical husband or father, I am disqualified from serving as a pastor or an elder or a deacon.

The Bible says that what happens in a family doesn't stay in a family...

It follows that person everywhere.

Because it is an indication of what kind of person you really are.

Just this past July, a Texas pastor pled guilty to domestic violence.

After pushing his wife in their home during an argument.

And there are countless charges brought against church leaders for spousal and child abuse.

That is why family relationships are so important.

They are our test of your spiritual maturity or in these cases, your lack of spiritual maturity...

Or even become proof of unbelief.

When you listen to a sermon and you are convicted to change a behavior, the first place you need to change that behavior is in your home.

Your heart should first be convicted to become a better husband, wife, father, mother or parent before you try to be a better co-worker or friend.

You first need to apply spiritual truth in your home.

And then when you get it right there, you will be able to get it right in the world.

That's why a study on family is so important to your Christian walk.

Most of your Christian walk takes place around the people who are closest to you.

And here is why you need to walk in the Spirit in your family.

The truth about family is that you have two sinners who marry each and have more sinners as children.

And then all these sinners live together under the same roof.

It is like rubbing two dogs noses together and then turning them loose in a pen.

Families are places of conflict because you are placing sinning, selfish people in close contact.

And conflict is the natural result.

This is certainly true for unbelieving family members, who are driven by the desires of their flesh.

But it is also true for Christians who still battle an old nature.

That is why you must be on guard in your family every day.

And we saw last week the keys to living in harmony with other family members..

In Ephesians 5:15-21...

We saw the importance of first being filled with the Spirit, which is simply reading and obeying the Bible every day.

We learned how this leads to a person who is filled with joy and rejoices in the Lord every day.

WE also saw the importance of being thankful in all things.

And then we saw how all these lead up to the real focus to having a healthy, God-honoring family...

And that was when all the members of the family live in submission to one another.

In short, a Spirit-filled, joyful, and thankful family member will happily submit to other members of the family.

He or she will not demands their rights be honored,

They will not demand that their happiness is the most important thing,

They will gladly give up their comfort for the comfort of others.

They will be eager to serve, not to be served.

And if the entire family lives in submission to all the other members, a healthy family will be the result.

There won't be a need to buy the perfect gift for your spouse..

Or take your family on the perfect vacation..

Or read 100s of parenting books.

And let me tell you this kids, you will never need to be punished if you a life in your family that puts your needs below other needs.

The misbehavior that gets you into trouble is usually the sin of a me-first attitude.

In a family where no one is thinking me-first, there will be very few family problems or issues.

That is a summary of last week, but before we get to wives, husbands and kids...

You need to get these practices down first.

If you first as a Spirit-filled person, reading and obeying the Word of God..

If you are a joy-filled person..

If you a thankful person...

If you are a submissive person....

The instructions that will follow over the next few weeks will not be difficult....

Rather, what we look at in the next few weeks will only bring greater blessings to your family...

So, with that said...

Let's address the first group hat Paul addresses in Eph 5:22...

Let's look at God's instruction to wives....

Ephesians 5:22-24..



***<sup>22</sup> Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. <sup>24</sup> But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.***

Continuing on the theme of being subject to one another, Paul addresses the wives in particular.

And he begins by saying be subject to your own husband.

She is not commanded to submit to another man, but to the one man that the Lord has placed over her.

And there are a couple additional principles here that must be understood...

A wives submission does not come at the command of the man, but rather from the Lord.

It is a willing submission that the woman offers.

Not under threat from the husband.

Second, this submission is not without limits.

Obviously, a wife is not to submit to sinful activity...

Like the apostles who said that they must obey God rather than man.

A wife submission stops at the point when a husband asks her to disobey Scripture.

Obviously, a Christian husband would never put his wife in this situation, but an unbelieving husband sure might.

Which brings up another question, must a wife submit to an unbelieving husband?

Take your Bibles and turn with me to 1 Peter 3:1...

***In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, <sup>2</sup> as they observe your chaste and <sup>[a]</sup>respectful behavior.***

Peter is essentially writing the same thing that Paul is writing in Ephesians 5..

Wives submit to your husbands, but he begins his instruction with the an interesting phrase...

“In the same way..”

So, you need to look back...

And when you look back in chapter 2 of 1 Peter, you see the theme of submission...

In verses 13-17, Peter calls for submission to government....

And the government in Peter's day was certainly corrupt.

Then he calls for workers to submit to their bosses, even bosses who were unreasonable.

But then Peter turns the perfect example of submission, none other than the Lord Jesus Himself...

Look at 1 Peter 2:21....

***<sup>21</sup> For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, <sup>22</sup> who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; <sup>23</sup> [w] and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; <sup>24</sup> and He Himself [x] bore our sins in His body on the [y] cross, so that we might die to [z] sin and live to righteousness; for by His [aa] wounds you were healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and [ab] Guardian of your souls.***

And then Peter opens chapter 3 by saying that wives should in the same way as Christ suffered for doing right.

Which suggests that wives must still submit to husbands even though they may not be kind and gentle.

And the point of this is that you may win your disobedient over by your excellent behavior.

When you submit to an unreasonable husband, you make an impact on him.

He expects you to rebel.

He expects you to disobey.

But when you quietly submit and don't seek your own way, your actions speak louder than your words.

You may have been trying to speak the gospel to him for years...

But you will make a bigger impact with your actions...

Look at verse 1 Peter 3:3...

***<sup>3</sup> Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; <sup>4</sup> but let it be the hidden person***

*of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.*

John Andrew is learning how to hug.

He will now come up to the girls and throw his little arms around their neck and squeeze.

And what do we immediately say....

“Aww, that’s so precious.”

It melts our heart to see him do that.

Do you want to melt God’s heart?

Do you desire to be precious in God’s sight, ladies?

Live a life with a quiet and gentle spirit of submission.

And do you know why that is precious to God?

Because that we the life that His Son lived in the face of opposition.

Though Jesus was no push over, his submission in the face of evil doers was precious to His Father.

Ladies when you submit to overbearing husbands, you are identifying yourself with Christ.

Who like a lamb was silent before his shearers.

And before you think that the idea of submitting to husbands is a new idea or simply a matter of culture....

Peter reminds us in verse 5 that submission goes all the way back to the beginning of the Bible....

***<sup>5</sup> For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; <sup>6</sup> just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right <sup>[b]</sup> without being frightened by any fear.***

The pattern of the wives of old was to live in submission to their husbands.

And nothing has been written in the OT or NT to suggest that this pattern should be halted at any time.

Though submission has become increasingly unpopular because of the feminist movement....

A believer's life is not based upon the world's standards but the standards of God.

And then Peter ends this passage with a note of encouragement to wives.

The place of submission is a place of blessing.

When a wife aligns herself under her husband, she lives free of fear.

That may sound like just the opposite of what we would think.

But the point is this....

Living in submission to God puts you a place of blessing because you are ultimately being obedient to God.

He then is your ultimate protector.

You have nothing to fear when your life is lived in obedience to him.

Where is the safest place in the world?

Living in the center of God's will for your life.

And here is where many Christian wives fail.

They are devoted believers in every other area of their spiritual walk...

They read the Scriptures...

They serve the church....

They love others....

But they refuse to submit to an unbearable husband.

And what Peter is saying is that you are putting yourself in an unsafe place when you are not submitting to your husband.

It is always a fearful place to be outside of the Lord's will for you life....

So, submit to your husband regardless of his behavior...

Again, you don't have to submit to sinful activities or actions....

But when you respond in submission with a quiet and gentle spirit, you are removing the fear from your life....

Because you are honoring God, who is your refuge and strength.

Now, you can turn back to Ephesians 5:22.

That why Paul makes it very clear...

Your submission to your husband ultimately demonstrates her submission to God.

In the real sense, an unsubmitive wife is an unsubmitive Christian.

Wives, you don't have perfect husbands.



I don't need to tell you that.

So many husbands demand submission out of the same fallen heart that causes you to resist submitting.

That is the truth of the fallen human heart.

The man's heart demands a submissive wife and the woman's heart refuses to submit.

And though your husbands are perfect, your heavenly father is....

And when you submit to a fallen husband, it is truly a testimony to your ultimate love for your heavenly Father.

And then God gives the reason for this submission in verse 23...

<sup>23</sup> ***For the husband is the head of the wife***

Submission follows God's design for marriage.

He has ordained the husband as the leader of the home.

This is not man's idea, but instead it was the design of God.

Well-known pastor Adrian Rogers has said about husbands being the head of the wife.

God has designed marriage and family with a clear leader, the husband and father.

Someone has to call the plays.

There is one head, because anyone without a head is dead...

And anyone with two heads is a freak.

That's why God established the husband as the head of the wife.

And after we are given the reason, Paul gives us a reminder of submission....

***as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.***

This is a very striking motivation to submit.

Wives, you submit to your husband in the same way that the church submits to Christ.

We obey him.

We love him.

We honor him.

No one would think of telling Jesus how to run his church.

Well, actually some do.

Many have tried to run the church their way rather than the Lord's design for the church....

And how does that always end?

In complete disaster.

I am reminded of this just this week.

Mark Driscoll, a very popular pastor in Seattle Washington resigned this week after a year of controversy.

Many of you may not recognize his name, but the church that he pastored, Mars Hill, usually has 10,000 people who attend every week.

What is unusual about his resignation is that it was not issues of immorality.

Instead, he resigned over how he had shepherded the flock with a dominating and aggressive spirit.

The Scriptures are very clear on this issue.

Christ has called his under shepherds to lead God's people not with a heavy hand but with patience and longsuffering.

Well, Driscoll thought he had a better idea of how the church should be led...

So he used heavy handed tactics of intimidation and impatience, and in the process....

Many people were hurt.

The church attendance is way down.

And now, Driscoll has resigned, which is the first right action that he has taken.

But the point is this....

The design for the church and for the family comes from the Lord.

When you start inserting your ideas of how things should be done.

Whether that means, you become a heavy handed pastor...

Or a dominating wife...

You are headed for trouble.

Just like the church submits to Jesus, the wife submits to her husband...

And get then look at what the Lord reminds us of at the end of verse 23...

***He Himself being the Savior of the body.***

So, how is Christ the Savior of the body.

Well, the most obvious way is that he laid his life down for the church.

He paid for the church's sin.

Obviously, a husband isn't and can't be a Savior in this way...

But the husband is or should be a provider and protector of his wife.

We will see this next week, but the husband should be willing to lay his life down for his wife.

In that way, submission is a matter of thankfulness to that kind of care and protection.

The church submits to Jesus because he offered Himself for us.

He protected us from the danger of sin.

He provided eternal life through his death.

Such protection and provision motivates our submission to him.

It is like going to a doctor who cares for your health and provides you with medicine to make you better.

When you see his care and concern for you, you follow his instructions to get better.

What kind of patient would totally ignore directions from a doctor, who had shown in the past that he cared for the patient so well?

In the same way that the church submits to Jesus as their Savior who delivered them...

The wife submits to the care and protection of the husband.

And then Paul closes out this instruction to wives with a simple summary of what he just said...

***Ephesians 5:24***

***<sup>24</sup> But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.***

## Conclusion

I must conclude here with a few disclaimers.

First, the world will think you are crazy if you say that you submit to your husband.

It will call you old-fashioned.

IT will say that you are out of touch with reality.

If you go to work tomorrow and even to mention to some Christian women that you learned about a wife's submission last night at work....

Even some in the church will think you are crazy.

And that is an indication of how far the Word of God has fallen in the eyes of even those in the church.

Turn with me to Titus 2:3....

***<sup>3</sup> Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips norenslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, <sup>4</sup> so that they may <sup>[b]</sup>encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, <sup>5</sup> to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.***

The idea of being subject to your husbands is a matter of honoring the Word of God.

This is not an idea of man, and this is not something for years past that doesn't today.

The Word of God is timeless.

And the Word of God is complete.

You can't pick and choose what you want and then discard what you don't like.

And let me be clear, submission is not an easy task.

But the difficulty of it does not mean it should be ignored.

How dare a wife tell others to obey God's word in other areas and then refuse to submit to their own husband.

Second, husbands who demand submission are as wrong as wives who refuse to submit.

You will not find a verse in the Bible that tells husbands to demand submission from their wives.

It is nowhere to be found.

For men who abuse this command by wives by being a dominating husband...



You bring as much shame to the name of Christ as the dominating wife.

Men, this is not license to be dominating and unreasonable...

You should be a husband who makes it easy for your wives to submit...

And we will take a long look at that beginning next week.

And a long look that will be...

Because we have 9 verses to get through, rather than 3.

Amen ladies?