



## Secrets to a Successful Marriage

### Principle number Twelve

## Submitting to one another

*Ephesians 5:21-33 Submitting to one another in the fear of God. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 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.*

Notice in verse 21 we are instructed to submit to one another in the fear of the Lord. Notice again that it does not say obey one another. To submit to one another is to allow one another to operate in their strength or their gift. My wife is better at planning events than I am so I submit to her in her gift of organizing. She tells me when the event is and what time I am to be there. I just simply show up. I am completely submitted to my wife in her strengths and gifting. I come along side of her to assist her anyway that I can to ensure she is successful in anything she puts her hand to do. In the same way she is submitted to me in my strengths and comes along side of me to assist me in all my endeavors.

Marriage was not designed for one to rule or dominate the other. It will not work when one tries to dominate the other. It will break down, fall apart, and die. If you try to dominate and control your spouse you cause them to feel trapped in the marriage. Marriage is a partnership. It is designed to function as a team, each partner helping and supporting the other. It is the nature of mankind to exalt themselves. It comes natural to us to always put ourselves first. The wisdom that runs through our minds will always justify our own actions and condemn everyone else's actions. Our thoughts will always blame others for our failures. Do not listen to the

wisdom of your flesh but humble yourself and put your spouse above yourself. This does not come natural to us therefore we have to choose to walk in love with one another. We do this in the fear of the Lord. We understand that if we will obey God's word it will go well with us, however if we disobey his word it will not go well with us therefore we obey his word which is the fear of the Lord. All of God's principles are operated with our faith and our trust that God will be with us and help us. We humble ourselves before Him and our spouse trusting that our God will bless us and honor us for trusting in His word. Over the many years of being married I am completely convinced that God's word is true and His principles will bring you great blessing and great peace.

### **A Time to Reflect**

1. Are you submitted to your spouse's strengths and gifting?
2. Are you supporting your spouse in their endeavors?
3. Do you try to dominate and control your spouse?
4. Does your spouse feel they are trapped in the marriage?
5. Are you willing to submit to your spouse and help them be successful in life?