



Secrets to a Successful Marriage

Principle number Thirteen

Wives submit to your husbands

Ephesians 5: 22-24 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.

In these verses God gives instruction to the wives. He is talking to the wives. He is not talking to the husbands. These verses do not concern the husbands. It's not the husbands place to remind the wife of these scriptures. This instruction is between God and the wife. God is instructing the wives to do a very difficult thing. He is instructing her to submit to and reverence her husband. First of all, let me say, that many men are not worthy for their wives to submit to them. All men have problems and issues. Many times their priorities are not in order. Some men can't make decisions, others are lazy, and the list goes on and on. Nevertheless God instructs the wives to submit to their own husbands. The reason God is commanding the wife to submit to her husband is because all men have a fundamental need to be respected. When a man is respected it gives him a sense of worth and value. It causes him to want to protect and provide for the one who is respecting him. It causes him to be loyal to the one who respects him. When a wife respects and believes in her husband it empowers him to be all he can be.

How can I submit to my husband with all his problems and attitudes? You may ask. God has given each of us our own free will. You simply make a decision, as an act of your will, to obey God's word. When a wife looks to God for her strength and sense of worth it empowers her to respect her husband. Wives, your responsibility is to submit, to honor, and to respect your husband.

1 Corinthians 11:3,7,10 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... For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of the man... For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

God's divine order in the natural realm is: God, Christ, man and woman. God is Christ's covering and Christ is man's covering, and man is woman's covering. The angels protect us from evil and harm in this life. Wives, if you refuse to submit to your husbands, you violate God's

divine order and you are not under the covering of the man, which means the angels cannot protect you. Submitting to and honoring your husband is God's divine order in the natural realm. There is great blessing to your obedience in this. When you look at your husband, look past his faults and failures; look at him as God's gift to you. Focus on his good points. Help him fulfill his ambitions and goals in life. Don't criticize him or call him stupid. Don't criticize him or remind him of his failures. Forgive him when he falls short of your expectations. There is one thing you can count on, he will disappoint and fail you. So already determine in your heart you are going to forgive him, honor him, and love him with all of your heart.

God created man and woman with their own uniqueness. Men and woman are physically, mentally, and emotionally different. When a wife submits to and reverences her husband, it strengthens him greatly. Wives you have the power to empower your husband to conquer the world. All he needs to know is that you believe in him. You also have the power to crush him and cause him to second guess himself and strip you of any confidence to do anything. Wives use you influence to empower your husband and you will reap the rewards.

Proverbs 14:1 Every wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands.

Let me say this so that you will not be confused, in the spiritual realm there is neither male nor female. Christ is the covering of the husband and the wife. First and foremost we are marriage to Christ. He is the spiritual head of the man and the woman. However in the natural realm the order is God, Christ, husband and wife. As a wife if your husband contradicts God's word you are going to obey God first and foremost.

A Time to Reflect

1. Are submitted to your husband?
2. Do you build up your husband or tear him down?
3. Do you show him respect?
4. What can you do to show him you believe in him?
5. What changes can you make to show him respect?