

Respectful Submission | 02.08.09

1. If your group did not discuss last week's message, you may want to combine the small group questions from last week and this week and create your own discussion based on a blend of the questions. It is difficult to talk about "respectful submission" without discussing "loving leadership."
2. "Submit" is a difficult word for us today. Why?
3. What exactly does it mean for a wife to submit to her husband?

Leader Hints:

- *The word "submit" is "hupotasso" in Greek, and it means to place or arrange under.*
- *Re-examine Ephesians 5:18-24 and remember that: (a) we all need to submit (v. 21); and (b) it is a choice (v. 22).*
- *Re-examine 1 Peter 3 and remember what it doesn't mean: (a) not agreeing with everything that your husband says or believes; (b) not blind obedience; (c) not passively waiting for my husband to take care of my spiritual growth.*

4. Why is it important for a wife to submit to her husband?

Leader Hints:

- *Re-examine Ephesians 5:22-24 and remember that submission: (a) is an act of worship ("as to the Lord," v. 22; see also v. 21); (b) models Jesus' relationship with church (v. 23-24; this is the high calling on our marriage relationships).*
- *Re-examine 1 Peter 3 and remember that submission is what God wants to use to transform a husband (v. 1-2).*

5. Pastor Earl said that submission is not a sign of weakness but one of strength of character. Ask the group to express what they think the character traits of 1 Peter 3:1-6 look like.

- What does hoping in the invincible sovereignty of God look like in a woman's life and in her marriage relationship with her husband?
- What does focusing on internal beauty versus external beauty look like in a woman's life and in her marriage relationship with her husband?

6. The challenge of submission is that it works best when a husband is exercising loving leadership. This is not always the case. Pastor Earl addressed the fact that as followers of Christ, our lives have a higher calling on them and sometimes this means that we suffer. This is often very difficult. Challenge your group to think of someone who is in a challenging marriage relationship and explore how you might be able to encourage this person this week. Take steps to act on it.



For marriage resources, go to:

- Our book table (on Sundays)
- Our library (on Sundays)
- www.marriage.orangevillebaptist.com

To ask marriage questions:

- Use the connection card (on Sundays)
- Email ask@orangevillebaptist.com
- Text 889898 ask _____

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