

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare
TITLE: Program 53 – Understanding Our Roles In Marriage**

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

How can a woman put herself under her husband, how can she be subject to him and not only that but how can a woman respect her husband when all she wants to do is change him? And what about the man, how can a man love his wife, sacrificially? How can he love his wife as himself? How can he love her when she’s in the state that she’s in and she’s not perfect? We’ll talk about it today because it all has to do with being filled with the Spirit.

PART ONE

There’s one thing about studying the Bible and going through it book by book and chapter by chapter and verse by verse. You always have to tackle everything that is said in the text. And that’s what we’ve done. We have examined every verse of Ephesians right up to the 5th chapter to the 22nd

verse. Now we’ve come to a subject that can be very, very touchy. A subject that has caused a lot of books to be written, a lot of articles to be published and a lot of women to become absolutely irate. It has divided women, as a matter of fact. As they’ve said, “Listen, God doesn’t expect me to be a second class citizen. God doesn’t expect me to be under my husband’s orders. I don’t care what it says about wives being subject to their own husbands.” Listen, God has an order for us here. God is telling us how we are to order our lives and you know what, it’s all connected with the Holy Spirit. As a matter of fact, when you stop and look at it in context you see that the text flows from being subject to one another talking about being filled with the Spirit, **“and [being] subject to one another in the fear of [the Lord].” (Ephesians 5:21)** Then it doesn’t even pick up the next verb in the text but it says, **“Wives...to your...husbands....” “Wives...,”** what to your husbands? **“Wives, be subject to your own husbands as [unto] the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:22)** So what he does is he puts “be subject” in verse 21: **“And be subject to one another...,”** present participle, keep on being subject to one another and then, **“...be subject....” (5:21-22a)** If you’ll notice, you see that “be subject” is in italics which means that it wasn’t there in the original language. Rather, when it says, **“Wives...to your own husbands...,” (5:22a)** it’s carrying on what was said before. We’re to **“...be subject to one another in the fear of [the Lord].” (Ephesians 5:21)** That’s a mutual submission, wives to their husbands. Now that word “subject” is “hupo-” “h-u-p-o-” “-tasso” “-t-a-s-s-o.” “Hupo-” means under and “-tasso” means command. It’s a word that is used for ranking yourself under another person. And you say, “But listen, am I a second class citizen that I have to rank myself under my husband?” Oh no, you’re not a second class citizen. [You were created in the image of God, male and female,] Genesis 1:26 and 27 says, [God created them.] (PARAPHRASE, Genesis 1:27) And he told them that all creation was put under their command. He gave male and female dominion. And yet when he created them he had a plan in mind. Now

I want you go back and I want you to look at a word. A word that is used in Ephesians that talks about the ordering of a household. Ephesians chapter 1, in verse 10 and he’s talking about Jesus and God’s purpose in Jesus, **“With the view to an administration....” (Ephesians 1:10a)** and that is the word “O-i-k-o”, which means a house. And it means the ordering of a house. And so he says **“With a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of ...times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in... heaven[s] and things on...earth....” (Ephesians 1:10)** God has a plan. God has a structure. A structure to the universe, a plan for the universe, a plan for man and he’s going to carry it out. When you come to chapter 3 verse 2 it says, **“If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace....” (Ephesians 3:2a)** Once again it’s that word, “O-i-k-o” and then “n-o-m-i-a”. The stewardship in the carrying out, the ordering of something. And so this word is used by Paul in this book to show you God has everything in control. God has a plan, a purpose that he is working out. Part of His plan and part of His purpose is seen in marriage because marriage becomes a picture of God’s relationship to us through His son, Jesus Christ. And so when you and I look at this very important passage in Ephesians chapter 5 in verse 22 all the way through verse 33, God’s going to show us His plan, His purpose and His picture of His love for us and how a man is to love a woman. What happens is we listen to Ephesians chapter 5, verse 22 and what we do is we stumble. We stumble right over that verse and it pulls us up tight and we say, “I don’t want to be under orders. I don’t want to be subject. I am equal with my husband. In Galatians it says, [“In Christ Jesus there is neither male nor female, bond nor free, we are all one in Christ.”] (PARAPHRASE, Galatians 3:28) I am one in Christ so don’t tell me to be subject to my husband. Why should I be under his orders? Why shouldn’t he be under mine?” Well the reason is simply because this is the way God has ordered his household. This is the plan that God has. This is his purpose in creation. Remember when Adam and Eve were created? Genesis chapter 1

tells us and gives us the big picture. It says, [“And he created them male and female. He created them in the image of God and he gave them dominion over all the earth.”] (PARAPHRASE, Genesis 1:27-28) But then you get to Genesis 2 and what he does is he focuses in. I have a friend and they’ve been looking at houses. And what we do is we see a small picture here of the house but then he goes in he zooms in and that house gets bigger so that we can even focus in on small details on that house. So in Ephesians chapter 2 what God does is he focuses in on the details of this house that he is constructing, this household of God of whom every family, remember, derives its name. Every family in heaven and in earth and under the earth, every family derives its name from God. So now he’s turning to the family. And he’s going to talk about wives, he’s going to talk about husbands, he’s going to talk about children, he’s going to talk about parenting those children. He’s zeroing in on his household, he’s zeroing in on the family. In Ephesians chapter 5, and I want you to go there. I want to read to you a little bit so I can get you over this sweat, if you’re in one and so that you can hear what I’m saying. And maybe you’re not in a sweat, maybe you’ve already studied this, maybe you already understand this and I know that there are so many voices in the world. And there’s so many books on marriage, I mean so many books on marriage, I’ve contributed to that “so many”. I’ve written a book called “A Marriage Without Regrets”. It got a gold medallion. But I think it got a got medallion because I explained the text, I’ve explained the Word of God and I showed that these are God’s precepts for life that if we’ll follow them they’ll we’ll have a good marriage. Now it doesn’t mean that the marriage will be everything that we want, but it means that when you and I stand before God, if you and I will live according to the precepts of this book, according to God’s commandments, according to God’s standards, then when we stand before God, Precious One, we will have no regrets. Even though our marriage wasn’t wonderful, we will have no regrets because we have been obedient to God. And sometimes holiness comes

when we're unhappy because it's our unhappiness that causes us to look to God and to run to God and to cling to God as the waistband clings to the waist of a man. Ephesians chapter 5, told you I was taking you there, verse 22. **"Wives, be subject..."**, remember that's added, **"...to your own husbands..."**, Doesn't say to all men, but, **"...to your own husbands, as to the Lord."** (Ephesians 5:22) Now you are not be subject to your husband if he tells you to do anything that goes against the Word of God. You're to be subject to him as to the Lord. So when it's talking to husbands and wives here it's talking in the context of Christianity. When you understand what was going on in the Roman Empire at this time and when you look at the way marriages were being dissolved and the way wives were being treated and what husbands were doing you can understand that this brought a whole new light on the subject. As a matter of fact it elevated the status of women like nothing else. Christianity, have you got this, listen carefully, Christianity elevated the status of women. You say it does sound like it it says **"...be subject to your husbands..."** (Ephesians 5:22a) Because, **"...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."** (Ephesians 5:23) Now what has he just done? Once again he's given us a comparison and the comparison is, ["I am to be subject to my husband because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church which is his body."] (PARAPHRASED, Ephesians 5:22-23) Listen to what he goes on to say, **"But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything."** (Ephesians 5:24) Now remember that's everything that is right, everything that is good, not anything that is against God or against the Word of God or that would harm them. And then he goes on to say, **"Husbands, love your wives, just as..."**, I love that just as, **"...Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for [it]."** (Ephesians 5:25) So once again he's taking us back to the example of

Christ. And when you get to that example you go, “hey this is pretty good, for me, as a woman. We’ll come to the “pretty good” in just a few minutes.

PART TWO

I love it when the word of God explains immediately to us why we are to obey. So hang on, Precious One, when he says, **“Wives, be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:22)** he’s gonna tell you the reason. And once you understand the reason then you can get it straight in your mind and you can know that God has a purpose and that you are to fulfill his purpose. And his purpose for you is good and it is perfect and it is acceptable once you understand it. So let’s look at it. **“Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He himself...,”** Jesus, **“...being the Savior of the body.” (Ephesians 5:22-23)** Well if Jesus is the Savior of the body, listen, your husband is there as your head to be a savior to you. You know what I want us to do is I want us to get out that piece of paper that we need to keep handy every time that you and I are studying the Word of God. So that we can put a visual picture before you that you can later take and think on, all right? So this is what he says, [“that a wife is to be subject to her husband as unto the Lord for”] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 5:22) and then he explains to us this whole relationship. And what he’s going to show us is here is the husband on your piece of paper and then on the same line opposite that write “Christ.” And so what we see is he is likening the position of the husband to Christ. Now let’s see what he says. Look at it. I want you to see it in the Word of God. **“For the husband is the head of the wife....” (Ephesians 5:23a)** So let’s write that down. Under the husband put an arrow going down and then put “wife.” Now the husband is the what? The husband is the head of the wife. The head is the part of the body that gives the instructions. The head is the part of the body that makes

the decisions and as it thinks and as it makes the decisions then the body moves accordingly. When a person has a stroke and they can’t move their arm or they can’t speak clearly then what has happened is something has happened in the head and what has happened in the head effects the body. So the husband is the head of the wife. Now watch what it says and I want you to look at it. And it says, and “...[and] **Christ also is the head of the church....**” (Ephesians 5:23b) So under Christ come down with an arrow and then write “church.” So as Christ is the what? “Head” of the church, so write head there. And there you see the picture. The husband is the head of the wife. Christ is the head of the church. Now what he’s going to do is all the way through and we’re not gonna to be able to cover it in this program, but all the way through he’s going to start talking next to the husband. And he’s gonna tell the husband how he’s to look at Christ and as he looks at Christ he’s to see how Christ works with the church and how Christ treats the church and how Christ handles the church and he’s gonna say, “Okay husband, look at Christ.” And watch Christ with the church and I want you to do the same with your wife.” Now when he says this you know that Christ is never going to be mean to the church, you know that Christ is never going to tell the church to do what is wrong, you know that Christ is never going to harm the church, because what did we just see? We saw that Christ is the Savior of the church. Christ is the Savior of the body. So what God is showing us is an order here. An order that is very important. Remember God has a purpose. God has a plan and everything in his creation serves that purpose and serves that plan, even the evil. It says, [he is made even the evil man.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 45:7) And he’s made the evil man for the day of destruction. He doesn’t make us evil but we are born evil and God uses even evil to accomplish his purpose, because his purpose is always good. So let’s look at it. It says in verse 23, “**For the husband is the head of [his] wife....**” (Ephesians 5:23a) Now next to this verse, in your observation worksheet that you have downloaded or in your Bible put I Corinthians

chapter 11, I Corinthians chapter 11. And in I Corinthians chapter 11 we have this order presented to us again. If God repeats something like this you know that he wants us to get the point. If he says it, yes, it's there, it is truth and we are to live by it. But if he repeats it he wants us to get the point. So in I Corinthians chapter 11, verse 3 he says, **"...I want you to understand..."** (1Corinthians 11:3a) I want you to understand something. That **"...Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of [the] woman, and God is the head of Christ."** (1 Corinthians 11:3b) Okay so let's put that on our piece of paper. So from the husband put an arrow going up. And what do we see? We see that the husband has a head. Ooooooh the husband has a head and who's the husband's head? The husband's head is Christ. So if Christ is the head of the husband and the husband is taking orders from Jesus Christ then it doesn't matter what is done to us because he's living the way that he ought to live. But now Christ has a head. Oh! But you said, I thought, Christ was equal with God. Christ is equal with God. In fact Jesus said in John, in the Gospel of John, ["the Father and I are one."] (PARAPHRASE, John 17:21) And the Jews knew that he was making himself equal with God and that's why they picked up stones to stone him. So Christ has a head and who is the head of Christ? It is God, the Father. So put another arrow going up from Christ and on the top of that put a triangle. And now you have the picture. God is the supreme head. In 1 Corinthians 15 he's going to tell us that everything is going to be turned over to him. Eventually Jesus Christ will turn everything over to the Father and the Father will be all in all. So God is the supreme head, Christ is underneath Him. Does that make Christ any less? No. All right, and it doesn't make you any less to be under your husband. It doesn't make you any less to have your husband as your head. So the head of God is no one. The head of Christ is God. The head of the husband is Christ. The head of the wife is the husband. That's God's order, that's God's plan. And if you are going to be filled with the Spirit, if you are going to walk in a way that is pleasing to God, then wives you will be

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subject to your husbands. And when we get to verse 33 you'll respect them and we're going to see why that is important. But we can't see it today. There's too much information, but all of this is absolutely vital, if you're going to walk as a man or woman of God, Precious One, you've got to walk in obedience to the scriptures. And it's not bad when you remember this truth. When you get this line, when you get this order, and when you remember that God loves you and he desires your highest good.