

## ML202 Husbands and Wives

*In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth* [Ge. 1:1]. These two entities divide all scripture into two spheres — one spiritual, the other physical. Heavenly patterns become earthly realities even as the Logos became the flesh of the Person of God [Joh. 1:1; 1:14].

The Heavenly Father's relationship with His sons is the pattern for the earthly father's relationship with his sons. And when these sons join the body of Christ, they become the Heavenly Father's wife. Then a new relationship becomes the pattern for the Husband and Wife. And when they follow God's pattern, the blessings of the Lord follow.

So, let's begin with this text: "*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing*" [Eph 5:22-24].

Heads represent authorities. Marriage involves two people, but only one head - the man is the head of the woman. God has given everyone his or her own personal will. Therefore, for any marriage to follow the heavenly pattern, the wife must willingly submit to her husband.

Notice that Paul said, "let the wives," not "force the wives." Christ doesn't force anyone to follow Him, thus husbands should not force their wives to follow them. We serve the Lord by choice; wives should obey their husbands by choice. The husband should lead and the wife should follow.

Christ is not responsible for things believers don't submit to Him. Because He is the pattern, the husband is not responsible [has no authority] for things his wife does not submit to him.

Women don't see this, but the heavenly pattern favors the wife over the husband. This shouldn't surprise anyone, for Christ favors the saints over Himself. Think about what Christ has done for you; then think about what you have done for Christ. The results are as far apart as the North is from the South. Let's try to understand. We'll start at the top and work downward.

The LORD God designed patterns in heaven for us to follow on earth. Jesus said that "*all power is given to Him in heaven and in earth*" [Mt 28:18]. But in another place He said that He could do nothing of Himself [Joh 8:28]. Thus,

the power is God's, not His.

Power works via authority; heads represent authorities. This is the chain of authority from heaven to earth, from top to bottom — God, Christ, Man, Woman [1Co 11:3]. As we continue, let's address this doctrine from the woman's point of view — which is also the man's point of view because he is a bride even as she is a bride.

Now, God is responsible for Christ; Christ is responsible for man, and man is responsible for woman. At the top, God was so accountable that He charged His angels to watch over Christ [Ps 91:11-12]. Did you know that Jesus never even stumped his toe?

The man who submits to Christ as Christ submitted to God can expect the angel of the LORD to encamp about him [Ps 37:4]. By this same measure, the woman who submits to her husband can expect the angel of the LORD to encamp about her.

God's angels were as umbrellas which protected Christ; Christ's angels are as umbrellas which protect men, and men are as umbrellas which protect wives.

Christ got full protection because He submitted to God. The man who submits is under Christ's umbrella and the woman who submits to her husband is under her husband's umbrella.

All power is of God. The Son had no power of Himself, and the sons of men have no power of themselves. Men and women depend on God. Anyone who thinks God's pattern is outdated, should read this: "*God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land*" [Ps 68:6].

Married couples have followed God's heavenly pattern for thousands of years. Husbands have cherished their wives, and wives have submitted to their husbands. Whole societies have followed His pattern.

However, Satan has turned the world upside down. The child does as it pleases and the wife usurps her husband's authority. Having lost his authority, he either butts heads with his wife or becomes effeminate and goes elsewhere.

The solution is God's chain of command - God, Christ, Man, Woman. Key to the solution is obedience to the heavenly pattern. Don't expect the world to reform. However, the church will submit to Christ and the saints will follow the heavenly pattern.