

## Submission

### Scripture

“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 her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she 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.” (Eph 5:21-28 NKJV)

### Devotion

When God pronounced sentence upon Eve, “. . . He said . . . Your desire [shall be] for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” (Gen 3:16 NKJV) This was in response to her eating the forbidden fruit. Eve was always to be a helpmeet for Adam, but now the Lord gives Adam more authority than before the fall.

*Thy desire shall be to thy husband; thy desires shall be referred or submitted to thy husband's will and pleasure to grant or deny them, as he sees fit. Which sense is confirmed from #Ge 4:7, where the same phrase is used in the same sense. And this punishment was both very proper for her that committed so great an error, as the eating of the forbidden fruit was, in compliance with her own desire, without asking her husband's advice or consent, as in all reason she should have done in so weighty and doubtful a matter; and very grievous to her, because women's affections use to be vehement, and it is irksome to them to have them restrained or denied—  
Mathew Poole.*

Sin has heavy consequences. The dynamic between husbands and wives was forever changed when Eve took of the forbidden fruit. However, this does not have to be a tenuous relationship. If the husband loves his wife as Christ loved the church, then what was meant as a curse may become a blessing and opportunity to glorify God!

Yes wives are to be in submission, but the verse begins by saying, “submitting to one another in the fear of God.” Everyone must submit to authorities. “. . . For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God” (Rom 13:1).

The husband, by submitting to God, may lessen the burden placed upon his wife. In fact, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. People have less trouble submitting to authorities when those authorities have proven by speech and action that their goal is the welfare of others.

Therefore, wives likely have the harder role, but husbands probably have the greater accountability as they have been given the task of shepherding their wives. The key for both is submission to Christ.