

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**Ephesians 5:21-33**  
**Lesson #21**  
**Headship and Submission**  
**03/05/2023**

egalitarianism female Marriage homosexuality  
theology of sex Sexual ethics lust Abortion  
Adultery Divorce Family values love  
pornography intimacy transgender sin  
Complementarianism gender roles fornication male



*1 Peter 2:13*

“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution,”

*Ephesians 5*

“22 **Wives, be subject to your own husbands**, as to the Lord. 23 **For 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. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands **in everything.**”



**Headship**



**Submission**



Much of the confusion and controversy concerning gender “headship” and “submission” can be resolved only **after addressing three other issues.**

1. The **status** of Spiritual aliens

2. The **sacrifices** within the WAY of the CROSS

3. The **symbol** embedded in gender roles



Much of the confusion and controversy concerning gender “headship” and “submission” can be resolved only **after addressing three other issues.**

1. The **status** of Spiritual aliens

The Gospel message had a powerful appeal to many (especially the poor) **but was insulting to the establishment.**



**Headship**



I.M. DeHead

**Submission**



Dora Matt

*1Corinthians 1*

“22 For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a **stumbling block**, and to Gentiles **foolishness**, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the **power of God and the wisdom of God.**”

*Ephesians 5*

“<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives,”

- Paul’s Stoic contemporaries taught husbands to love (phileo - warm affection) their wives.
- Paul taught husbands to love (agape - sacrificial service) their wives.

Three reasons

Christianity came to dominate Western civilization.

1. Its **audience** - was the whole world.
  2. Its **message** - was uniquely powerful.
  3. Its **promise** - was classless.
- This paved the way for democratic governments.

*Mark 8:34*

“If anyone wishes to come after me, he must **deny himself**, and **take up his cross** and **follow me.**”



*1 Corinthians 1:18*

“For the **word of the cross** is to those who are perishing **foolishness**, but to us who are being saved it is the **power of God.**”

Traditional gender roles were assumed to be “natural” **until the modern era.**

1st cent.

20th cent.

patriarchal culture

egalitarian

**Matriarchal cultures are hard to find in human experience past or present.**

**Authoritarian**

Men are designed to rule (as head) and women to follow (submit) in all areas of life.

**Egalitarian**

Roles in the home and church are determined by ability, giftedness, and calling apart from gender.

**Complementarian**

Men and Women have ascribed complementary and distinct roles in the home that affirm the dignity and uniqueness of each.

Much of the confusion and controversy concerning gender “headship” and “submission” can be resolved only **after addressing three other issues.**

1. The **status** of Spiritual aliens
2. The **sacrifices** within the **WAY of the CROSS**



A good test of a servant’s heart is how he or she responds **when treated like one.**

*1 Peter 2:21*

“For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also **suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in his steps.**”

*1 Peter 3*

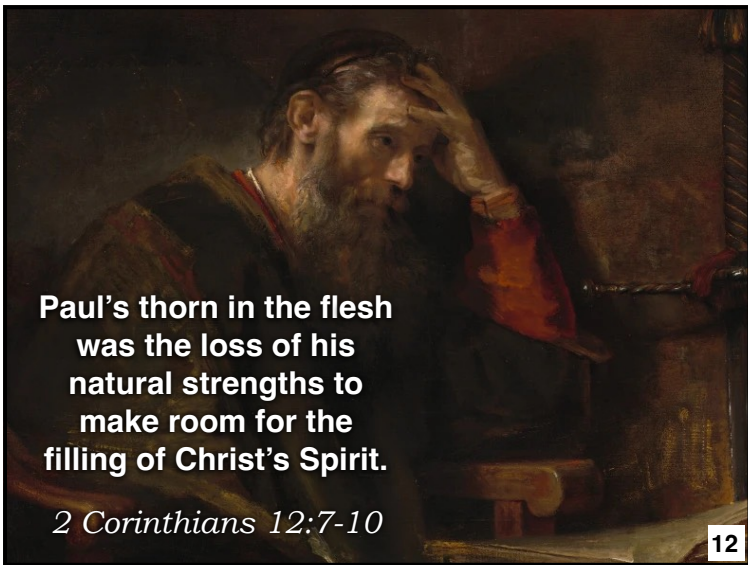
“1 **In the same way**, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands  
7 **Likewise**, you husbands live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor”

**Unless we embrace the Word and Way of the Cross** we will have a hard time embracing the N.T. teaching on gender roles.



Jesus’ temptation tells us that the means and ends are inseparable.

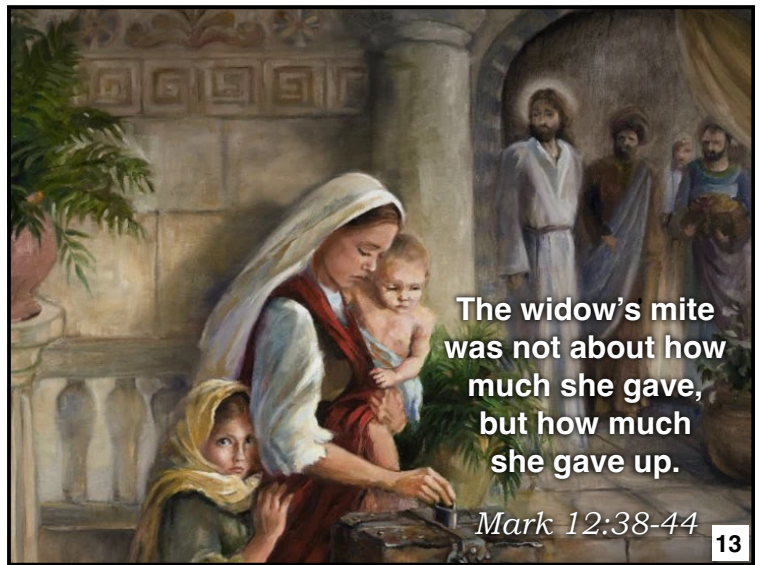
*Matthew 4:1-11*



**Paul's thorn in the flesh was the loss of his natural strengths to make room for the filling of Christ's Spirit.**

*2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

12



**The widow's mite was not about how much she gave, but how much she gave up.**

*Mark 12:38-44*

13



**Matthew tells the story of two rich young rulers.**

*Matthew 19:16-26*

14



**One had great wealth to give to the other but the other first had to make room for it.**

15



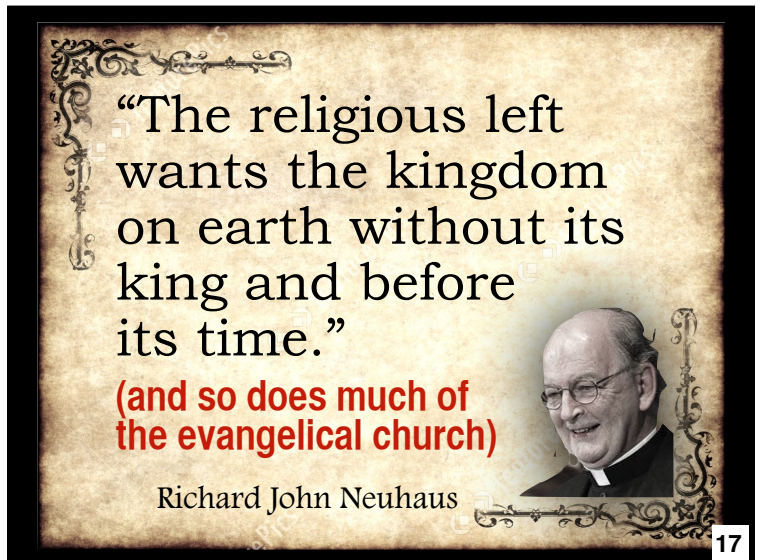
**As a gifted and powerful woman, how do you respond to those who say that women are not free to be ordained in the Catholic Church?**

**“Power in the Kingdom of God is love. I don't need a position or a title to exercise that power.”**



**Agnes Mary Donovan (Phd)**  
Superior General, Sisters of Life

16



**“The religious left wants the kingdom on earth without its king and before its time.”**

**(and so does much of the evangelical church)**

**Richard John Neuhaus**

17

Much of the confusion and controversy concerning gender “headship” and “submission” can be resolved only after addressing three other issues.

1. The **status** as Spiritual aliens
2. The **sacrifices** within the WAY of the CROSS
3. The **symbol** embedded in gender roles



18

<sup>31</sup> “For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.”

### Three mysteries are revealed

- **Uniqueness #1** - With marriage, the husband’s responsibilities shift from one family (his parents) to another (his wife and offspring). In Asia for example adult children are expected to never relinquish responsibility to parents.
- **Uniqueness #2** - Husbands were to renew their wives to a position of dignity, honor, and equality. This stands in contrast to most cultures outside Judaea Christian influence.

19

<sup>32</sup> This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.”

### The third mystery

- **Uniqueness #3** - Marriage is a dynamic drama that mirrors Christ’s relationship with the church. This is a mystery revealed through special revelation.
- Marriage is about more than individual fulfillment. It is about Emanuel and the Gospel.

20

### The nature of HEADSHIP in marriage

- Christ is the model of “Headship” in his relationship to the church (his bride). Eph.5
- Vs 25 - He “**gave himself up**” for the church.
- Vs 26-27 - His intent was to present his bride “**in all her glory**”.
- Vs 28-30 - He “**nourishes and cherishes**” her as his own body.
- Vs 31 - In “**becoming one flesh**” he affirms the need for intimacy (not being left alone).
- Vs 32-33 - He sees the gender postures in marriage as a dramatic image of the relationship between “**Christ and the church**”.

21

The sacrifice the husbands are asked to make for their wives exceeds the sacrifice asked of wives in their submission to husbands.

- The wife’s submission involves trusting God and overcoming fear as she yields to her mate, **while her husband is asked to face God as he bears responsibility in giving his life for his family.**
- The husband is asked to model his life after Christ **in a way the wife is not.**
- The husband needs the support of his wife if he is to fulfill his calling and vice versa.

22

### Colossians 3:19

“Husbands, love your wives and do not be **embittered** against them.”

- “**embittered**” - “irritated”, “impatient”, “picky”.

### 1 Peter 3:7

“You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an **understanding** way, as with someone **weaker**, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.”

- “**understanding**” - “according to knowledge”.
- “**weaker**” - “delicate” “less recognized”. As we are to give “honor” to less recognized gifts in 1 Cor.12:22-24.

23

Subjection / Submission to one another is a basic Christian doctrine and is a **POSTURE** more than a **RULE**.

- It is the sign of a **spirit filled life** - along with gratitude, joyful singing, edifying speech etc.
- It is something that cannot and should not be **forced** on another. It is a sign of the Spirit, not a law to be followed.
- It is something that is applicable to **every Christian** but especially in certain areas - leaders, teachers, elders, marriage, family, etc.

24

### Implications:

**The husband**, like the wife, is called to sacrifice as a part of his service and witness.

- ✓ The husband's sacrifice is in many ways **greater** than that of the wife in that he bears responsibility for the family by laying aside his life. He, not the wife, is commanded, like Christ, to love (**AGAPE**).
- ✓ The husband is to **serve his wife** with sensitive listening in order to understand and honor her.
- ✓ There is no place for the husband to **claim a favored position OVER** his wife, with special privileges, and benefits.
- ✓ The husband **needs his wife** to support him in this heavy calling by being receptive and supportive.

25

If God created man and woman as distinct and complementary, to reveal something about his image (Gen.1:27)

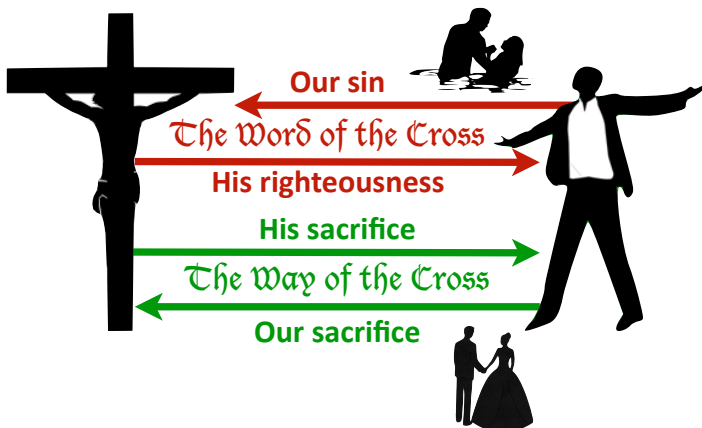
**we should think twice before we try to disestablish it.**

26

“Gender roles are not so much dictated by rules as by relationships built on a shared understanding of the **Body of Christ** and commitment to the **“Way of the Cross.”**”

27

### Two great exchanges



28

**Headship** **Submission**  
are a cross to bear,  
a witness to show,  
and a reminder to be true.



Emptied himself



A living sacrifice

29

# A Berean's look at ...

