

## **“What’s A Husband To Do?”**

### **Ephesians 5:18-24**

#### **Sermon Series: “Jesus And My Marriage”**

**Introduction:** How This Relates To The Analogy Between Christ and the Church and Marriage: Danny Akin has written, “Paul is suggesting something radical, and he knows it! But he cannot shy away from the truth the Holy Spirit is revealing through him. From its very founding, the institution of marriage was designed to image forth the relationship that Jesus Christ has with the people of God, the Church. The man leads, loves, and serves his wife because that is how Christ gives himself to his bride. And the wife respects, submits to, and helps her husband, because that is how the Church of God follows the risen Lord Jesus.”

**Main Idea: The husband’s position is headship so his role is leadership, and the wife’s role is to follow her husband’s leadership through submission.**

**1. Husbands and wives are equal persons (Genesis 1:27, 2:18) with different roles. His role is leadership and hers is voluntary submission.** The Trinity, Church, and government provide examples of this equality with voluntary submission. How should submission be defined? “Submit” is translated from the Greek word, *hupotasso*. It is a military term that means to “line yourself up under someone else’s authority.” Another definition is “a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden.” It is in the middle voice in Greek, which means that it is an action that you do to yourself. In other words, it is not forced but done voluntarily by the wife out of obedience to God.

**2. It is rooted in and expressed in the context of the husband being one with his wife and loving his wife like Christ loves the Church.**

**3. There are three aspects of submission pictured here: first, submission to the Lord, then to each other mutually (v. 21 and 1 Corinthians 7:1-5), and also the wife to the husband.**

**4. This is delegated, and therefore, limited authority. It is limited and defined by the Lordship of Christ and the Word of God.**

**5. This means that the ultimate priority of our leadership is leading our families to do the will of God.**

**6. The goal of our leadership is to please the Lord.**

**7. Our leadership is to be Christ-like leadership, which is servant leadership (v. 23, Mark 10:42-45).** Leadership makes us first in responsibility and last in rights because Jesus, our Savior, laid down his rights and assumed responsibility for our sin.

**8. Therefore, authority expressed in a self-centered way instead of a loving, Christ-centered way is a sinful use of authority.** Here are some ways that we can wrongly use this authority: By acting like a dictator, being harsh, acting like our wife’s father, being the exclusive decision-maker, being lazy and using this as an excuse for self-indulgence, squelching our wife’s personality, being passive and cowardly, objectifying our wives or women in general.

**9. Some practical suggestions for what to focus on in living this out would be providing for, protecting, and being a priest to our families.**

**10. We cannot give what we do not have or lead where we have never been so we cannot live this out apart from our own submission to Jesus and relationship with Him.** So, how do you need to respond to this?