



# *The Submissive Wife*

## **SUBMISSION: PAIN OR PLEASURE**

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One of the vital doctrines of the Christian faith and of the Bible regarding marriage, which cannot be ignored or treated with levity, is that of submission. It is commonly mentioned and generally misunderstood. As a result, many women close up their minds at the mention of the word.

Dear sister, whatever your stand on submission before now I implore you to lay aside all prejudice and bias and let's have a heart-to-heart discussion. Let me crave your indulgence to take a sheet of paper and pen and write down what submission means to you. Please, be frank and sincere with yourself.

Does submission connote any of the following to you?

- i) Slavery or servitude.
- ii) Giving your husband an upper and perhaps undeserved edge over you.
- iii) Letting him have his way all the time while your ideas are thrown to the wind.

Let's go a step further. This time, we would examine your attitude to submission. Each time you submit, do you do it willingly or reluctantly? Do you derive joy or delight in doing so? And does your husband resort to the use of force before you eventually submit or yield to him?

It is necessary for you to answer these questions in order to ascertain where you truly stand on this matter and where God wants you to be. Your answers to the questions raised are therefore very important. They would help you to know whether submission gives you **pain or pleasure**. Now, let's see what God says in Ephesians 5: 22 on this subject.

***“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord”.***

The word, ‘**submit**’ means to ‘**surrender, yield or give in**’. In other words, God says, Wives, surrender, yield and give in to your husbands as unto the Lord. If in your own assessment, submission means or gives pain and not pleasure, then you need to go to God in prayer. ‘For what?’ you seem to ask. You need to pray:

- i) To confess your rebellious or unsubmitive attitude (Isa.1: 18; 1Jn.1: 9).
- ii) For willingness to submit (surrender, yield or give in) to your husband (Isa.1: 19a).
- iii) So as to derive joy and fulfilment in submission (Col.3: 23-24).

Remember our text says when you submit you should do it as an “***act of worship or reverence to the Lord***”. God certainly would not ask you to do something that is not to your benefit or advantage. Jeremiah 29: 11 which we all often quote says, “***For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end***” that is, the best future and hope.

Again, Isaiah 1: 19 says, “***If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land***”. There are certainly benefits in godly submission for women who would dare to do it. Let me mention but a few.

- i) It is a potent instrument to win the soul of unbelieving husbands unto the Lord (1Pet.3: 1).
- ii) It helps to reduce strife and tension in the home (Rom.12: 18; 2Tim.2: 22).

- iii) It serves as a good example for children to follow, prepares them for their future homes and helps them to obey constituted authorities in the society.
- iv) The heart of your husband would safely trust you (Prov.31: 11).
- v) It is the key to unrivalled, unfeigned love, which you crave for from your husband.
- vi) Your children and husband would bless and praise you (Prov.31: 28).
- vii) You would earn an excellent report above your peers and generations to come (1Pet.3: 5-6).
- viii) You would earn a strong commendation from God (1Pet.3: 6; Prov.31: 30).

In conclusion, let me say this, whatever you consider to be your endowments or achievements as a woman be it beauty, education, riches, fame, favour or position. God gives them all to you not just for yourself, but for the good of your husband, children, family, Church and the society at large. Like the four and twenty Elders before the throne of God in Rev.4: 10-11, why not willingly cast down these crowns at the feet of your husband? Humble yourself in the sight of God and He shall raise you up (Jam.4: 10). Perfect your obedience to God in this regard and He will defend your cause in life.

Please, note that I am not in any way trying to be over-simplistic or taking things for granted. I have not assumed or suggested that the woman is evil and her husband a perfect saint without a fault. I know that there are naughty issues and difficult stalemates in marriage that could warrant seeking further counsel from godly marriage counsellors. However, every woman must harness the power of prayer and commit the heart of her 'king', that is her husband to God and watch out for how God will direct that man like a river to do His perfect will and for the benefit of all. If we go about it God's way, true submission would give us **pleasure** and not **pain**.