

Acting as Gentile or “Great” Disciple?

- All infants enter the world as “*lords.*” Parents seek to train them to become “*servants.*”
- We have to complete their duty to become great.
- *"You know that those who are considered rulers over the **Gentiles lord it over** them, and **their great ones exercise authority over them.** 43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever **desires to become great among you shall be your servant.** 44 And whoever of you **desires to be first** shall be **slave of all.** 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. Mk. 10:42-46*

The Long Journey of the Upward Call

- Let *nothing* be done through *selfish ambition* or *conceit*,
- *but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.* 4 Let each of you *look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.* Phil 2:3-4
- Leave *selfish ambition* and *groundless self-esteem* forever behind.
- Banish selfishness / pride in **all relationships**. Count others better than ourselves, submitting to them and allowing ourselves to be last of all and servant of all.

The Path to Greatness – New Things

- *Let **nothing** be done through selfish ambition or **conceit**, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you **look out not only for his own interests**, but also for **the interests of others**. Phil 2:3-4*
- Must put off ambition and conceit
- Must put on esteeming others better
- Stop looking **only** for own interests
- **Also** consider the interests of others.

Which Relationships? — All!

- submitting to **one another** in the fear of Christ.
- wives to your own **husband**,
- **husbands** love your wives,
- **children** obey your **parents**,
- **fathers** don't provoke your children,
- **slaves** be obedient,
- **masters** do the same to them." Eph 5:21-33
- Position of service or leadership makes no difference. We are all servants one of another, just as Jesus was.
- This is the submission that makes us great in the kingdom of heaven

The Manifold Wisdom of God

- Manifested in in the church, (Eph. 3:9-10), will also be in our marriage (Eph. 5:21-33).
- **When we say “*I love you*” we mean:**
- ***My love for you is: “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends. (ESV) 1Cor. 13:4-8***

Yet with All This, Submission Scorned

- *Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, 1Pet. 3:1 is hard for many to accept WHY??? “schemes of men” “aimless conduct”*
- *Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have **sought out many schemes.**” Eccl 7:29*
- *your **aimless conduct received by tradition (handed down)** from your fathers, 1Pet. 1:18*

The Role of Women

- A fair movement (suffragettes) to bring right to vote and right to inherit (England) to passed those bounds and cast off Scriptural Norms.
- Woman Demand equality ...
- Unisex Movement:
- Same Clothes
- Same Hair
- Right to Preach and be Elders
- Demand for leaderless marriage.

Scriptural Norms – Under Attack

- *"A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God. Deut 22:5*
- *if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him? But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering. 1Cor 11:14*
- *But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. 1Tim. 2:12*
- *Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. 1 Cor 14:34-35*

An Extra Burden on Women

- leave the world sensitive to these commands
- Must clear minds of human wisdom/ influence
- *“rulers of Gentiles lord it over them, and the great exercise authority over them,”* Mt. 20:25-28
- Led to a backlash against all submission.
- Abuses must not be allowed to cloud the truth:
“whoever desires to become great, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
- Stigma of a “*servant*” wife must be overcome
- Remember Jesus came to serve and give His life.

The Real Problem for Many

- Wives, *in like manner* be submissive
- The subject of submission a unit (2:11-3:17). 1 Peter 2:11-12
- *I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,*
- *having your conduct honorable among Gentiles*
- Our customs and norms come from heaven.
- This world is not our home.
- If we reject God's demands it is because of fleshly lusts, if we identify the lust, we can submit to God
- Can't be a sojourner, alien, exile, pilgrim if we assimilate into their culture,.

Mighty Power of Submission.

- *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matt 11:29*
- This has touched multitudes and drawn them near
- Wife's sincere submission can do the same thing
- *Even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. ”*
- The true and genuine greatness of serving is influence

Submission: Not an Act but in the heart

- A genuine purity (*chasteness*) creating and sustaining this reverence. It is a sincere and real.
- While the husband sees reverence, God is seeing: *“the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”*
- There can be no discord between the heart and acts
- *I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1Sam 16:7*
- To be *“very precious in the sight of God,”* it must be in the *“hidden person of the heart”* If it is not in the heart, it is not sincere and will be rejected.

- Long before a husband detects it, God does.
- This “*gentle and quiet spirit*” is not just “*precious,*” but “*very precious!*”
- This beauty is “*imperishable*” and thus eternal!
- A beauty first seen by God, then, as it begins to influence her decisions and conduct, her husband will see and be influenced by it.

A Stark Difference in Perspective

- What the world sees as demeaning,
- God sees as imperishable beauty.
- As the world scorns, mocks and calls it despicable
- God sees “*imperishable beauty*”
- *A gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.*
- While the world sees it as common and unclean.
- How do we see it? Is God’s view our view? Is it “*a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.* 2Tim. 2:21

Greatest Adornment a Woman can Seek

- A “*gentle and quiet spirit*” priceless, exquisite, and eternal, and available for purchase
- *I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, Rev 3:18*
- This adornment is put on by seeking a gentle, calm and soothing response – full submission to husband
- A complete renovation from worldly lusts of pride and selfishness, to the restoration of the true divine image and nature.
- A spiritual metamorphosis more stunning than any butterfly has ever become.

True Essence of Holiness

- As her inner being develops, her husband sees her pure reverence and respect
- Image and likeness of God seen in true femininity – A calm, soothing and controlled submissive spirit
- This is not new! It has never changed!
- *In this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands as Sarah obeyed*
- Adornment “*in this manner*” unites all the great women since the beginning.
- *Holy Women ... those who trusted in God ... adorned ... in a submissive, meek, & quiet spirit.*

Sermon from a man ... to Benefit men?

- *16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ... 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ... 3 time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, ... 4 turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables 2Tim 3:16 – 4:4*
- If we believe the truth, then we have our answer.

Abraham & Sarah

- *Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness, You who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were hewn, And to the hole of the pit from which you were dug. 2 Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who bore you; Isa 51:1-2*
- When mining diamonds or gold, can't find just anywhere. Once discovered, a pit is dug to follow the "vein" in the rock. As long as that vein remains it must be followed.
- If we want to follow righteousness, Abraham and Sarah are the vein we must follow.

- *as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.*

- *10 And He said, “I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son.” ... 12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?”*

Not Afraid with any Terror

- The darkness of this world seeks to crush this out of a woman's heart.
- The rewards are too great to lose because of the world's disdain.
- The final act of creation was the home and family. It was His answer to our deepest needs.
- Beautiful place of serenity, peace and joy”
- Husband embracing his role to lead and sacrifice for his wife as Christ did the church
- Wife embracing her role of submitting to him with a gentle and quiet spirit.
- The beautiful light of God's great masterpiece of marriage seen in a world filled with darkness.