

Colossians

“Wives submit to your husbands as is fitting in the Lord”
Colossians 3:18



Challenging Texts

- Our sense of justice, values, and belief system must be filtered through the gospel
- Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”



What is submission?

- Submission is a yielding of authority and leadership to someone or something
- All Christians are called to it



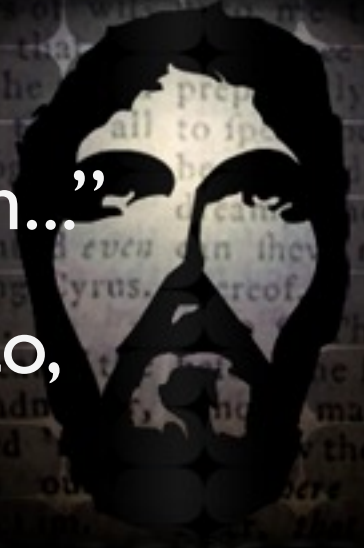
What is submission?

- submit to God's law and righteousness (Rom. 8:7, 10:3)
- submit to one another (Eph. 5:21)
- church submits to Christ (Eph. 5:24)
- submit to leaders (Heb. 13:17)
- submit to our governments (1 Pet. 2:13-17, Rom. 13:1-7)



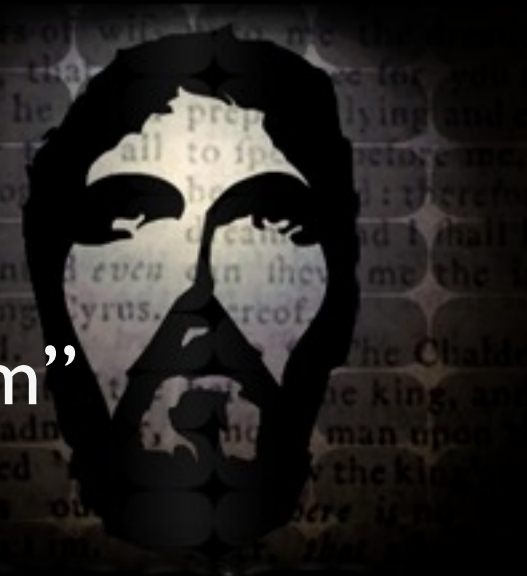
What is submission?

- It's God's call to worship him (Col. 3:18-24)
 - "...as is fitting in the Lord."
 - "...for this pleases the Lord."
 - "...fearing the Lord."
 - "...as for the Lord and not for men..."
- We don't worship what we submit to, rather we worship Jesus by our submission



Submission in marriage

- Creation Story
- Gen 2:18 “Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.’”
- First place in creation story where God says something is **not** good
- “fit for him” does not mean “like him”



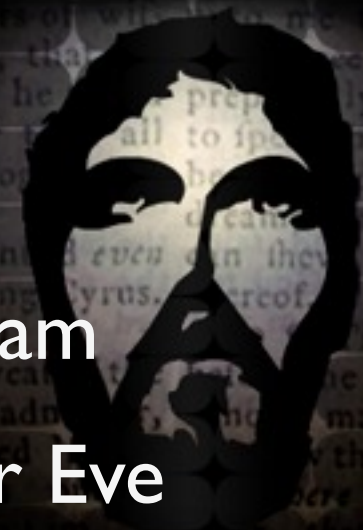
Submission in marriage

- Complementarianism
- Men and women are equal in personhood and dignity as equal image bearers of God (Gen 1:27), but have distinction in their roles inside of the home and church.
- we can't just know how we were created, we have to know and believe how, why and for what we were created



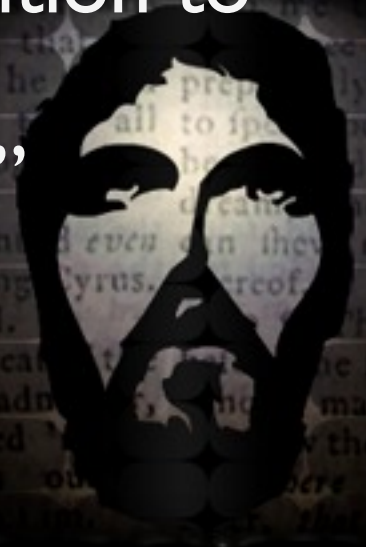
Marriage in light of the fall

- Gen 3:16 “To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. **Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.**”
- Sin has damaged God’s purpose in marriage
 - Eve will assert leadership over Adam
 - Adam will rule and domineer over Eve



Submission in marriage

- John Piper, “Submission is the divine calling of a wife to honor and affirm her husband’s leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts. It’s the disposition to follow a husband’s authority and an inclination to yield to his leadership.”



What isn't Godly submission?

- Not a call to submit to **every** man
- Not blind obedience to everything your husband does or says
- Not a call to leave your brain at the marriage altar
- Not a call to submit in just **some** things



Practical submission

- Dreams & Desires
- Giftings
- Parenting
- Pastoring



How is submission modeled by Jesus

- The trinity is 3 distinct persons, all equal though with differing roles
- John 10:30 “I and the Father are one.”
- John 5:18-19 “...the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing...”
- John 14:28 “...for the Father is greater than I.”



How is submission modeled by Jesus

- John 12:49 “For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.”
- There is deference inside of the trinity



How is submission modeled by Jesus

- Hymn of Christ, Phil. 2:5-11
 - “... though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, ...”
 - “...he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”



How is submission modeled by Jesus

- The next time you feel submission is **condescending**, remember the hymn of Christ, and the words of Puritan Philip Brooks “Jesus Christ, the **condescension** of divinity and the exaltation of humanity.”
- In Jesus we have our perfect savior, our perfect mediator, our perfect teacher.



