

# 1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 28

## Chapter 11: The Blessings of Biblical Submission

29 December 2017

God's commands in the Bible are not meant to make your life unbearable, but to give you opportunities and blessings that can only come from following the path that God has laid out for you. Such is the case with the way God has laid out an orderly plan for leadership and submission. His plan offers the greatest possibility for success and happiness in life and in marriage.

Our Lord Jesus gladly submitted to His Father's will for our benefit. Shouldn't we gladly submit to God's will, knowing that others will benefit when we do? To do this, we must put away our own selfish desires and put others first. The Corinthian church struggled with selfishness in every aspect of life and every chapter of First Corinthians. Thankfully, we can benefit from the reproof they received in this letter if we'll heed the instructions found in it.

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### GOD'S ESTABLISHED ORDER (VSS 1-3)

Paul was placed in a position of leadership. As he follows Christ, he commands others to follow him. His earthly position as a spiritual leader doesn't give him more heavenly benefits than any other saved person. He is merely fulfilling his calling and obeying the Lord. God set this up for the benefit of the church, so that it can function properly.

**"The head of every man is Christ."** Every man is in a position of submission, including the church leaders. My eternal life is the same as every other saved man or woman regardless of my position of submission. I'm in Christ, and He IS eternal life.

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**"The head of Christ is God."** Jesus said, "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30). He said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9). He "thought it not robbery to be equal with God" (Phil. 2:6). The fact that Christ took a position of submission in the Godhead does not make him any less God than the Father. Though their duties differ, their purposes are the same. His submission was for the benefit of man.

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**"The head of the woman is the man."** The woman is not "less saved" than the man. Both have the same eternal life and the same access to God. God established this order in the marriage and in the church to better enable Him to accomplish His purposes on earth. The woman should not feel that she has been given a "bad deal." Jesus doesn't feel that He has been disrespected by God the Father. He gladly submitted for the common cause. He said, **"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart."** (Ps. 40:8).

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### THE ORIGIN OF THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP

**Vs 8** "For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man."

**Vs 9** "Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man."

**Genesis 1:26-28** proves that God had a plan to create the woman from the beginning. She wasn't an afterthought. Just as He had the "bride" (the church) in mind from the beginning, though she didn't show up until after the death of the groom, —God had a bride for Adam in mind from the start.

## **Genesis 2:18-24**

Adam's bride came as a result of a "deep sleep" that fell upon him and the sacrifice of a rib (vs 21). She was "**bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh**" (vs 23). Ephesians 5:30 says, "**For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.**" Jesus said, "**the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.**"

God planned to make a "**help meet for him**" (vs 18). Adam would need help to accomplish the responsibilities that God had placed on him. His wife would be the help "meet" (suited) for him.

If the woman's God-ordained purpose is to aid and assist the man in fulfilling God's purposes on earth, then she will not find fulfillment in any other role on this earth. A woman who aims to alter the marriage relationship established by God is going to be unhappy and frustrated all her life.

God "**brought her unto the man**" (vs 22). The man is not to stop working to go find a wife. If he'll stay busy doing the work God gives him, God will supply what he needs.

The man and his wife "**shall be one flesh**" (vs 24). God made the woman for the man. She not only helps him, but she completes him. On the day that a man and woman marry, God performs an operation uniting the two as one (1 Cor. 6:16). This is why divorce is such a painful thing. It's like cutting off a part of your flesh.

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## **1 PETER 3:7, HEIRS TOGETHER OF THE GRACE OF LIFE**

The husband and wife are "**heirs together.**" Both their names are on the inheritance in heaven.

"**Dwell with them...that your prayers be not hindered.**" —If you want to have a right relationship with God, you must have a right relationship with your husband/wife.

"**Giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel.**" Men need be careful how they handle their relationship with their wife. She is delicate and easily damaged (not like a man). She ought to be treated as the most valuable thing in his life.

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## **1 TIMOTHY 2:14-15, THE WOMAN IS EASILY DECEIVED**

The Bible is very clear in stating that there is a difference between the behavior of men and women. Men are more prone to be openly defiant while women are more susceptible to being deceived.

**GENESIS 3:6**, when Eve saw something she DESIRED (she longed for it; she wanted it; she had to have it), the Devil was able to convince her that it would make her happier than what God gave her.

**GENESIS 3:14**, the serpent was cursed.

**GENESIS 3:16**, this verse is often taught as "*the curse upon the woman,*" but this is not a curse. If she was cursed, God could not have saved her (vs. 21). This is actually a blessing God gave to the woman. He gave her a desire for the man and his leadership that would protect her from the deceit of the Devil.

**GENESIS 3:17-19**, this is not God's curse upon the man. God cursed the ground to keep the man busy so he would wear himself out so much that he wouldn't have time to get into trouble. The difficulties the man would now have to face would humble him so that he's not so bold to sin against God.

**Ecclesiastes 6:9** (the wandering of the desire).

**Psalms 37:4** (The LORD...will give thee the desires of thine heart). Let your desires be for the things of God.