

SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:
RELATIONSHIPS: THE ROLE
OF THE WIFE: SUBMISSION**

**SCRIPTURE TEXT:
EPHESIANS 5:21-25**

**PREACHER:
REV. DR. ANDREW TAN**

Introduction

1. The Rationale For Submission (And Headship)

“Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.” (vv22-23)

“Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.” Once again, wives are commanded to submit to their husbands just as the church is to submit to Christ. (vv24-25)

2. The Perspective For Submission

a. The Wife's Submission Is in the Context of the Overarching Call to Mutual Submission

“be filled with the Spirit” (v18) followed by 4 participles.

Fourth participle: *“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”* (v21)

b. The Wife's Submission Is Simply Another Aspect of Love.

“Submission” and “love” are two aspects of essentially the same thing, namely, the selfless self-giving which is the foundation of an enduring and growing marriage (John Stott).

c. The Wife's Submission Is Meant to Liberate Her.

Paul's teaching on a wife's submission was meant to liberate, not subjugate her. Christ demonstrates that there is dignity in submission to the will of His Father. In the church, where “in Christ” rules, the cultural differences had no value (Gal. 3:28).

3. Questions About Submission

a. Doesn't submission imply inequality between husbands and wives?

b. What does it mean to submit “in everything”?

c. What if the husband exercises ungodly leadership? What then?

d. What if he refuses to change but continues to be difficult?

e. What if my husband is passive and does not lead?

Conclusion

Equality vs Mutual Submission

-----questions for sermon discussion-----

1. How do we practice this: *“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ”* (v21) in the church? Between a husband and a wife?

2. In your experience, how is the word “submit” interpreted in the wrong perspective?

Using the text (Ephesians 5:21-25) and context, how would you counter it?

3. In the light of Ephesians 5:21-25, how would you as a wife submit to your husband or as a husband expect your wife to submit to you? (or boss-worker relationship.)