

*Think It Over* helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. The points, questions, and Scriptures are designed to help make it real in your life.

- What is your first reaction when you hear the word submit? Read Ephesians 5:21 (Voice). What do you think it means to submit? What is the hardest thing about submitting to someone else? What are some negative responses people have to the idea of submission? What makes it possible?
- Read Ephesians 5:22 (Voice). What are wives told to do? How is submission a part of following Christ? Who else is told to be submissive in Scripture—1 Corinthians 16:15-16; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-15; 5:5; and Philippians 2:5-11? What general principle about submission can be drawn from these passages? To whom are wives to be submissive (Also consider Colossians 3:18 and 1 Peter 3:1-2)? Why is this important?
- Read Ephesians 5:23 (Voice). What is the husband's relationship to the wife according to verse 23? Consider some additional passages on "headship." What does 1 Corinthians 11:3 tell us about leadership? Does this mean the wife is in any way inferior? Why or why not? Read 1 Corinthians 7:3-4 and 11:11. What do these verses tell us about headship and equality? Consider Galatians 3:28-29. What does this tell us about the spiritual value of women?
- Read Ephesians 5:24 (Voice). What picture is being upheld in the marriage relationship according to verse 24? How should a wife respond to an unbelieving husband—1 Peter 3:1-2? What should be the main focus of a wife's attention—1 Peter 3:3-6? What impact could this have on a husband? In 1 Peter 3:8-12, Peter gives some general instructions. List these. How would following these enrich a marriage relationship? Read Ephesians 5:18. What is essential for wives (and husbands too) to be able to fulfill this command?
- If you think about a man who has the same heart for his wife as Christ has for the church do you think that this man's wife would have a hard time following his leadership?

**Making It Real:** Which out of the Submission Takeaways need your attention to especially avoid relationships? If you a wife how can you continually invite you husband to lead? If you are a husband how can you respond as a servant-leader? If you are not married how can you respond to this subject?

**Changing Your Mind:** Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.



*<sup>21</sup>And the Spirit makes it possible to submit humbly to one another out of respect for the Anointed. <sup>22</sup>Wives, it should be no different with your husbands. Submit to them as you do to the Lord, <sup>23</sup>for God has given husbands a sacred duty to lead as the Anointed leads the church and serves as the head. (The church is His body; He is her Savior.) <sup>24</sup>So wives should submit to their husbands, respectfully, in all things, just as the church yields to the Anointed One. Ephesians 5:21–24 (Voice)*

Submit is a military term, which means to submit your agenda (arranging troops under the command of a leader) to the greater whole

*<sup>24</sup>That's why a man will leave his own father and mother. He marries (cleave-KJV) a woman, and the two of them become like one person. Genesis 2:24 (CEV)*

The woman was made out of Adam's side. She was not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be loved. Matthew Henry

Submission is an invitation for someone to lead

The recognition and affirmation of both leadership and responsibility

<sup>23</sup>for God has given husbands a sacred duty to lead as the Anointed leads the church and serves as the head. (The church is His body; He is her Savior.) Ephesians 5:23 (Voicea)

<sup>22</sup>And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, Ephesians 1:22 (NIV) page 814

⇒ Spiritual headship is not license to do what you want to do, but empowerment to do what you ought to do

⇒ Submission grows when a growing servant-leader relationship can be trusted

<sup>22</sup>Wives, understand and support your husbands in ways that show your support for Christ. <sup>23</sup> The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church, not by domineering but by cherishing. <sup>24</sup> So just as the church submits to Christ as he exercises such leadership, wives should likewise submit to their husbands.  
Ephesians 5:22–24 (Msg)

<sup>2</sup>Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?"<sup>3</sup>That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out... Romans 15:2–3 (Msg)

⇒ Submission is not the same thing as obedience

<sup>18</sup>Wives submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.  
Colossians 3:18 (NIV) page 822

⇒ Submission is not independent decisions by the husband

<sup>5</sup>I am only a poor, helpless man. God, please hurry to me. You are my helper, the one who can save me. Lord, don't be too late!  
Psalm 70:5 (ERV)

\*This does not limit women from the highest leadership positions in business or politics (Ephesians 5, Genesis 2)

## Have you invited your husband to lead?

The typical man remains unmoved by power plays or criticism or by a wife who disrespects him. He's moved by a wife who lets him lead and then helps him get where he wants to go.

Gary Thomas, Sacred Influence

### Submission Takeaways

- ✓ Submission needs a man to be mature enough and humble enough to be a servant-leader.
- ✓ Submission is mainly an intelligent, happy, wise support for that leadership.
- ✓ Submission is a responsiveness to his initiative taking, which is not comprehensive control, but involves you in the planning of the family life.
- ✓ Submission means that in a draw you say: I trust you to do what is best.
- ✓ Submission means ultimately submission to Jesus so that you never follow your husband into sin. Remember, it never includes physical and emotional abuse.

Adapted from an interview with John Piper

### Bottom Line

When you get the real him,  
you get the real him

*Think it over is on the back page.*