

Think It Over: This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- Describe some marriages that are just plain awesome. What do you think makes them that way? What happens in a marriage where the wife doesn't allow the husband to lead like Jesus and the husband doesn't love his wife like Jesus loves the church?
- What do you think about the statement beginning with "*In every society that has moved...*"? Explain your thoughts and evidence for them? Why is that this not often accepted as true today? What will change that?
- What is your first reaction when you hear the word submit? Read Ephesians 5:21. 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? Review the "Households" section. What stands out to you? Why is Ephesians 5:26 MSG important to the discussion?
- Read Ephesians 5:22-25. How is submission in a relationship, especially in the context of marriage, an invitation for someone to lead? Do you believe inspired Paul is clearly calling husbands to a sacred duty to lead as Jesus leads the church? Why is trust crucial?
- Read Colossians 3:18 MSG. How is submission not the same as obedience? How have you seen Gary Thomas' quote to be true in life?
- Review and respond to each of the Submission ✓s. What are your takeaways? Which are the hardest for you and the easiest for you?

Next Steps: Review the Bottom Line. How is it reflected in your marriage and/or overall life (in relationships in general it is about knowing the other person)? What are some steps that you could take to move towards the ideal rather than giving up? What would it mean for you to show up in the relationships you do have in your life? What is your next step?



If you missed a message, visit www.scc.website or request a CD at Guest Services.



In every society that has moved towards a Christ-centered worldview, women and children do better!

- Households, be in a competition to submission.

²¹Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21 NIV

- Submit = I will put their needs/wants/expectations above my own.

³Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. ⁴Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. ⁵Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself.
Philippians 2:3-5 MSG

- Without a Christ-like mindset, expectation will become a score-keeping game.

- Without a Christ-like mindset, expectation keeps us from appreciation.

- The most powerful principle in any marriage or friendship is mutual submission.

*²⁶Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her.
Ephesians 5:26 MSG*

- Wives, invite your husband to lead.

*²²Wives, understand and support your husbands in ways that show your support for Christ. ²³The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church, not by domineering but by cherishing. ²⁴So just as the church submits to Christ as he exercises such leadership, wives should likewise submit to their husbands. ²⁵Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting.
Ephesians 5:22–25 MSG*

Submission is an invitation for someone to lead.

- Submission grows when a servant-leader relationship can be trusted.

*²³...God has given husbands a sacred duty to lead as the Anointed leads...
Ephesians 5:23 Voice*

Spiritual headship is not license

to do what you want to do,

but the opportunity to do what you ought to do

- Submission is not the same thing as obedience.

*¹⁸Wives, understand and support your husbands by submitting to them in ways that honor the Master.
Colossians 3:18 MSG*

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 [God wants him to be and to go]. Gary Thomas, Sacred Influence

- ✓ Submission requires a man to be mature enough and humble enough to be a servant-leader.
- ✓ Submission is 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 ultimately means submission to Jesus so that you never follow your husband into sin. It never includes physical or emotional abuse.

Adapted from an interview with John Piper

Bottom Line:

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

Resources for this message include a message by James Emery White at Mecklenburg Community Church, Northpoint Church, and Christ's Church of the Valley.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the Think It Over section on the back.