

DIGDEEPER

April 10, 2016

The Mission of Submission by BJ McMichael

Ephesians 5:22-24 ([Listen Online](#))

THE BIG IDEA

The design of Christian marriage comes from creation, not culture, and submission is a key part of that design. Wives are uniquely designed for the mission of submission to their husbands as a means of bringing glory to God and displaying the gospel in their marriages. Even though sin has made submission difficult, Paul exhorts the wives reading this letter to press on because they have a Savior who has perfectly submitted on their behalf.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

In marriage, what are some of the primary things God designed women to do?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- What makes submission a “dirty word” and difficult posture in our culture today?
- What does God ask wives to submit to and why?
- What are your initial reactions to today’s passage? How does the Bible inform or shape your reaction?
- What are the similarities and differences between the church-to-Christ submission and the wife-to-husband submission Paul outlines in verse 24?
- In what real life ways have you seen God’s goodness magnified by the submission of a godly woman to her husband?
- What effect does the completed work of Jesus have on our efforts to submit?

GO DEEPER

- Submission only works to the degree that it approximates the pattern of God’s self-giving love in Christ. Take a look at [why the home must first be transformed](#) by the love of Jesus.
- Submission in the context of the Christian life has [a very specific motive, means, and end](#). It’s part of God’s cosmic plan for creation which women are uniquely equipped to fulfill.
- Susan Eakin explains [how a submissive heart is a gift](#) wives can offer to their husbands.
- This [round-table discussion on submission](#) is helpful. To read and see more like it, check out the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood at [CBMW.org](#).

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

This week, consider carefully the way Jesus submitted himself to the Father. As you seek to submit to your husband (or to Christ), your sinful flesh will inevitably get in the way. But, we have a call to press on in following the perfect example of Christ (1 Peter 2:22-25; Philippians 2:3-8) who has already submitted perfectly on our behalf. Repent of the ways you have refused the design of God in your life. If your refusal to submit (or lovingly lead) has harmed your marriage, take time to confess that to your spouse.