

Wives ... (Ephesians 5:12-24)

- I. **Introduction – Submission – a most misunderstood concept**
 - A. Submission as understood in the ancient world
 - B. A cultural vs. a Biblical understanding of submission
 - C. A command given to women, but which men are invited to hear
 - D. Outline of sermon

- II. **Context**
 - A. Textual
 1. Where we are in Ephesians in general
 - a. Contrast of the world's behavior with that of the church
 2. Where we are specifically - Eph 5:21 introduces submission
 - a. The filling of the Spirit is identified by submission
 3. Eph 5:22-6:9 – “The Household Table”
 - B. Historical
 1. Understanding Paul's command as liberating not oppressive
 2. It was as radical a command as it is now
 - a. How you react to this command serves as a barometer of your own heart

- III. **Biblical Submission Defined and Described**
 - A. Defined
 1. Based upon order
 2. Submission: *The humble recognition of the divine ordering of nature, society, and the family.*
 - B. The reason for submission given (v. 23)
 1. as Christ is head – headship granted at creation
 2. as He is the Savior of the body
 3. it is a God-given delegated authority
 4. it pictures the union of all things under Christ
 - C. The scope of the wife's submission
 1. *her own husband*
 2. *in everything*
 3. are there cases where a wife should not submit?
 4. Is she to submit to an unbelieving husband?
 - a. 1 Peter 2:13,18, 3:1-6
 5. the “*Yeah, but*” attitude
 - D. The manner of the wife's submission – *as to the Lord*
 1. How does the church submit to Christ?

- IV. **Conclusion: Two consolations to take comfort in**
 - A. The men will get their fair return
 - B. The only real consolation – the Gospel