

Teaching Submission

by Wayne Goff

Submission is a dirty word in our society today among the self-promoters. Women are equal to men, so they do not have to submit to their husbands we are told. But Jesus taught us otherwise, Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1, 5.

Women are equal to men, and therefore can preach in the church's assembly we are also told. But Jesus taught us otherwise, 1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11-12.

The young are to rule over the older ones, we are told, because they are more enlightened. But Jesus taught us otherwise, 1 Peter 5:5a.

The problem of submission is nothing new. The serpent in the Garden of Eden taught Eve to **rebel** against God's plain instructions regarding the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil, Genesis 3:1-5. Eve disobeyed God's word and indeed had her "eyes ... opened" (v. 5), and regretted it ever since. But the serpent was "more cunning" and deceived Eve. Eve was *naive*, and so have God's people ever been.

Paul worried about this crafty deception, and wrote to the Corinthians: "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Cor. 11:3). The serpent's craftiness corrupts. We cannot afford to be naive.

The same evil influence in our society has threatened to punish godly parents who wish to discipline their children in an effort to place them under submission to the parents' authority. Consequently, parents have shied away from it and have unwittingly raised a generation of people who have no respect for anyone or anything that would require them to submit. But God has taught us otherwise, Proverbs 13:24; 22:15.

Dear Christians, just ask yourself **how uncomfortable** this subject is making you as you read this article, and you will see **how strong** the influence of the world can be against even the most devoted disciple! The Lord told His disciples as they went out into the world to "be wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matt. 10:16). And so should we be as well, Philippians 2:15. We must "become blameless and harmless, ...in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation."

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