

CHAPTER 5: SUBMISSION, STRENGTH, AND MISUNDERSTANDING

A Word That Carries Weight

Few words evoke as much discomfort, confusion, or resistance as the word submission.

For many women, it immediately conjures images of silence, control, erasure, or endurance of mistreatment. It has been used poorly, taught carelessly, and wielded abusively. In some cases, it has been used to justify harm that Scripture never condones.

Because of this, many women do not merely question submission—they fear it.

That fear deserves to be acknowledged.

But fear alone cannot be the final authority. Scripture deserves to be understood fully, not filtered only through its misuses. Before submission can be rejected or embraced, it must first be defined correctly.

Biblical submission is not what many women have been taught to believe it is.

Submission Is Not Inferiority

At its core, submission has been misunderstood as a statement of value.

The assumption is simple but false: If one submits, one must be lesser.

Scripture does not support this assumption.

Jesus Himself submitted—to the Father, to earthly authorities, to suffering—and yet Scripture affirms His full equality with God. Submission, then, cannot logically imply inferiority. It reflects order, not worth.

In God's design, submission does not erase strength. It directs it.

Submission is not about who matters more. It is about how responsibility is structured so that harmony, protection, and flourishing are possible.

Submission Is Not Silence

Another common distortion is the belief that submission requires silence.

That a submissive woman does not speak, question, reason, or influence.

Scripture again tells a different story.

Biblical women spoke with wisdom. They counseled their husbands. They corrected when necessary. They discerned danger. They exercised judgment. Submission did not remove their voice—it gave their voice context.

A submissive wife is not voiceless. She is engaged.

Submission does not mean the absence of thought. It means the presence of trust within God's order.

Submission Is Not Endurance of Abuse

This distinction cannot be overstated.

Biblical submission never requires a woman to endure abuse, violence, coercion, manipulation, or fear. Any teaching that demands a woman remain in harm's way in the name of obedience is not biblical—it is dangerous.

God's design for marriage includes protection, not threat. Love, not terror. Sacrifice, not domination.

Scripture never instructs women to submit to sin, cruelty, or destruction. Authority that harms is authority that has already abandoned God's design.

Submission cannot exist where love is absent.

The Weight of Headship

Submission cannot be understood without equally understanding headship.

Biblical headship is not privilege—it is responsibility.

A husband is called to lead not for personal benefit, but for the good of his family. His leadership is modeled after Christ, who laid down His life for the church. That standard leaves no room for ego, entitlement, or control.

Headship requires sacrifice before comfort, responsibility before authority, accountability before command.

Where headship is absent or distorted, submission becomes unsafe. Scripture never separates the two.

Submission was never meant to carry the full weight of order alone.

Strength Expressed Through Trust

Modern culture often defines strength as independence.

Scripture defines strength as faithfulness.

Trusting another person—especially in a world that often disappoints—is not weakness. It is courage when done wisely and within God's design.

A woman who submits biblically does so because she trusts God's order, not because she doubts her own worth or capability.

Submission flows from security, not fear.

Why Submission Feels Threatening Today

Modern women live in a cultural environment shaped by instability.

High divorce rates. Fatherlessness. Broken homes. Unchecked individualism.

Many women have learned—through experience—that relying on others can be costly. As a result, submission feels unsafe not because God's design is flawed, but because human sin has distorted trust.

Submission without discernment is dangerous. Submission without godly leadership is unsustainable.

Scripture never calls women to abandon wisdom.

Submission as Partnership, Not Erasure

Biblical submission functions within partnership.

It does not negate intelligence, gifting, or discernment. It aligns them within an ordered structure that allows a family to move forward without constant conflict for control.

Submission is not passivity. It is cooperation.

Order does not imply superiority. It implies direction.

The Peace Order Brings

Much of the anxiety women experience comes from carrying responsibility without authority, or authority without support.

God's design seeks to resolve this tension.

When headship and submission function as intended, women are not burdened with the constant pressure to manage, control, or protect everything. They are freed to contribute fully without bearing the weight alone.

Order creates clarity. Clarity creates peace.

Submission, when rightly lived, brings rest—not fear.

A Word to Women with Wounds

This chapter must speak directly to women who carry pain.

If you have experienced abuse, control, manipulation, or spiritual coercion, your hesitation is understandable.

God's design was never the weapon used against you. Human sin was.

Healing may require distance, boundaries, or protection—not immediate trust. God does not rush restoration at the expense of safety.

Submission is never demanded from a place of fear.

Reclaiming a Sacred Concept

Submission was never meant to be a threat.

It was meant to be a shelter.

It was designed to function within love, sacrifice, accountability, and faith. When removed from these, it becomes something Scripture never intended.

Submission, rightly understood, is not the loss of strength. It is strength ordered toward peace.