

**(f) Godly submission looks like...<sup>1</sup>**

- is willing to obey authority whenever it is wise and right to do so
- has the best interests of others in mind
  
- is patient and wise, approaching situations with graciousness and tact
  
- has the courage to stand for what is right
  
- is willing to share observations, knowledge and insight
  
- is willing to accept the final decision of a well-meaning head, even if it is not your desired outcome
  
- has faith that God has a purpose for every circumstance and works as part of the process, trusting God for the outcome

**3. Focus on marriage**

Love and service

Scripture patterns – Ephesians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 11:3

Scripture examples

Sins & struggles

<sup>1</sup> Robyn Huck, “The dreaded S-word: submission and our proud hearts”, *Journal of Biblical Counselling*,

**Being male, being female: part 2**

**While waiting to begin:** Can you think of people in your life who have been *like* a father or mother to you? Who were they? Why do think of them in those ways? Why does the church need people like that?

**1. Recap: our purpose as men and as women**

**(a) We were made to glorify God (Genesis 1:26-28)**

**(b) The “disposition” of men/women:  
ordered toward fatherhood and motherhood**

Created... body and soul... to serve Christ together... through

- dominion (e.g. “manage”/”rule” 1 Tim. 3:4, 5:14)
- fruitfulness: in family... and in church family

**(c) “complementary”: equal... different... fitting**

“a relationship of situation in which two or more different things improve or emphasize each other’s qualities”

Andrew Wilson, “Beautiful Complementarity”

<b>Man: like God, as a...</b>	<b>Woman: like God, as a...</b>
<p><u>Guardian</u> “to work/minister it &amp; keep/guard it” (Genesis 2:15) <small>Same verbs for Levites in Numbers 3:7-8, 18:7</small></p>	<p><u>Helper</u> “helper” (Genesis 2:18,20) <small>Used of God, e.g. Exodus 18:4, “God is my help”</small></p>
<p><u>Provider</u> “... the ground <sup>Adamah</sup> ... by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread...” (Genesis 3:17-19)</p>	<p><u>Life-giver</u> “... Eve... the mother of all the living.” (Genesis 3:20)</p>

**Discuss: what does it mean to be a “father” or “mother”  
... especially if you don’t have children?**

Here are some passages which show us the apostle Paul’s approach to church and to ministry.

1. What clues do we find to help us grow in our calling as fathers and mothers?
2. What do we learn about heart attitudes... character traits... actions and activities?

*Romans 16:13*

*1 Thessalonians 2:7-12*

*1 Timothy 1:1-3, 1:18, 5:1-2*

## **2. Biblical authority and submission**

**(a) Christ is the perfect model of *being* a head... and *having* a head**

**(b) Having authority does not determine your value**

**(c) All people are called to submission**

**(d) Both leader & follower must set aside selfishness...  
pursue Christ together... for the good of others**

e.g. Mark 10:45, 2 Samuel 23:1-4

**(e) Godly submission is often misunderstood: is it...**

- A. At Bible study, Carol is careful to always include a prayer request for our leaders in government. But at the coffee shop afterward she speaks harshly about the president, calling him a fool. Then driving home she angrily mutters at the new lower speed limit through town. “I’ll do it but I won’t like it,” she whispers to herself. “It’s so hard to be an obedient Christian these days.”
- B. Jerry hears his pastor deliver yet another sermon he’s sure is doctrinally flawed. But when the pastor asks Jerry what he thought of it, he smiles and tells the pastor, “You sure know how to preach!” Jerry takes his church membership oath seriously and wants to submit to the authority of the leadership as he promised. “God put Pastor Jim in charge, so I have to assume he’s right.”
- C. Greg turned twenty-one recently, and still lives at home. He sincerely wants to obey his parents and honor them. It bothers him that his father demands that he bring home a bottle of whiskey almost every night. Greg is quite sure Dad’s drinking habit would now be called alcoholism, but obedience means doing what he’s told, so he tries to trust God and not worry about it.
- D. Crying at the sink, Martha hears what’s going on in the next room. Her husband is in a rage. Once again, he is cursing at the children and she can hear him slapping them. She continues working in the kitchen because he ordered her: “Wash the dishes and mind your own business.”
- E. None of the above.