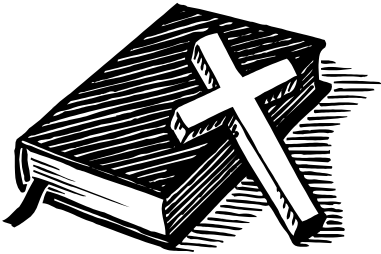


## A Marriage Minute™

A simple help to make your marriage just a little better this week.

### THE "S" WORD



*"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."*

*--Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)*

The "S" word. You know, "submit." Yuck! No one likes the word, much less the idea of submitting to a spouse. But, doesn't the Bible say wives "submit to your husbands"? Perhaps, but for many, there has already been an unconscious decision made, "I will never submit to you!"

The problem is a misunderstanding of the Scriptures. The Bible clearly presents a sense of *mutual* submission. It begins with the husband, as the leader, submitting first to God, then honoring and esteeming his wife more highly than himself. Then she naturally responds by returning the honor. She submits to him, and now they are "submitting to one another *out of reverence for Christ.*" You see, we submit to one another as an expression of our reverence for Christ. In other words, Christ's Lordship in our lives is seen in our submission to each other!

Too many of us have lost the sense of "the fear of The Lord." We've forgotten how to revere Christ, to honor Him, and yes, even submit to Him, and that is reflected in our human relationships. We struggle with the "S" word. We need to be honest and open with God and confess, our rebellion, self-righteousness and stubbornness, and submit ourselves to Jesus first, then to our spouse, in the fear, extreme reverence, and holy awe of our God. Then our love for God will be seen in our love –our mutual submission- to one another.

**Question for the Both of us:** Do we submit to each other with a sense of mutual respect? Is Christ's Lordship adequately demonstrated in the way we esteem one another?

**Prayer for both of us:** Help us to truly live a life "in the fear of Christ" with a holy awe and reverence that will be reflected in the way we treat and love one another.

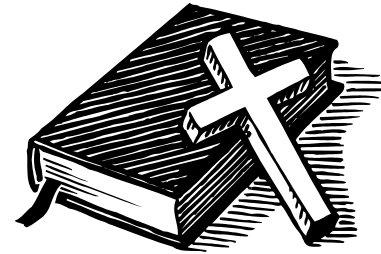
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