

# Learning to Walk: Ephesians 5:21-33

## Wise Wives

### Introduction

See also Colossians 3:18, Titus 2:3-5

### 1. Why Submission and Respect?

- Role vs identity - Galatians 3:28  
Matthew 26:39, Luke 22:42
- Recognizing God-given authority (5:23)

### 2. Specific Submission

- To your own husband (5:22)
- As to the Lord (5:22) – Genesis 20, 1 Peter 3:5-6
- In everything! (5:24)

### 3. Clarifying Submission

- Submission is only submission when we disagree
- Submission does not mean silence
- Submission does not mean following your husband into sin
- Hard cases make bad law
- Submission isn't easy, but it's good!

### 4. Intentional Respect (5:33)

- The honor of being a helpmate – Genesis 2:18
- Respect for position vs character

### Reflection Questions:

1. What has influenced my view of submission and respect from a wife to a husband?
2. Is there anything I value that runs counter to submission and respect?
3. Is there anything I'm afraid of that gets in the way of me submitting to my husband? How is God calling me to trust him in this?
4. Are there areas that aren't really important where I am unwilling to let go of my independence?
5. Does the way I speak to my husband make him feel respected, or is there a subtle put-down in my words, my tone of voice, or my humor?
6. Do I speak respectfully about my husband to others when he's not around?
7. Do I communicate respectfully with my husband even when I disagree with him or don't think he deserves respect?
8. Do I run decisions by my husband ahead of time, or do I just keep him informed on what I've decided.
9. Do I intentionally focus on the ways my husband is worthy of respect, thank God for those things, and regularly let him know what I respect about him?