



## “Oh No! Not Submission Again”

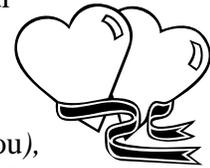


Submission is a troubling subject to Christian women who come to the shelter because of having suffered abuse by someone else.

An abusive man will often say things like, “a wife has to submit herself to her husband” – and even well-meaning people who don’t know the Scriptures very well, will say the same thing. But, there is much more to it than that.

In the first place, submission is an attitude, not an act of your body. Nowhere in the Bible does it say a woman has to submit to physical violence and mental torture. Actually the Word of God says, “*What! don’t you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, that you have from God, and you are not your own?*” (1 Corinthians 3:16)

“*For you are bought with a price (that Jesus paid on the cross to save you), therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are both God’s*” (1 Corinthians 6:20)



Did you hear that! Your spirit and your body both belong to God! He’s the only one you have to submit your body to – in serving Him and walking a spiritual walk with Him. True submission is NEVER an act of a victim, it is an act of humility – the humbling of yourself – of choosing to do something you don’t especially want to do, like helping someone who is sick, or taking time to play a game with your child who had an unhappy day, or serving God according to His commandments which do not fit in to your plans or time schedule, submitting your will to a higher cause.

No one has power over you unless you choose to give it to them – not even God. He will never force you, but He will lead you with love if you want to come. The Bible does tell us to have loving intimacy in the bond of marriage, with goodwill and kindness, but it is commanded of the man also.



Even the verse that is most commonly used to demand unquestioning submission from a woman is seldom quoted correctly. The first part is used, “*Wives, submit yourselves unto your husbands \_ \_ \_*” but the rest of the verse that says, “*\_ \_ \_ as unto the Lord,*” is left out. (Ephesians 5:22)

How do you submit yourself unto the Lord? Take a moment to think about it. Do you expect to be slapped by the Lord? Do you expect to be made fun of by the Lord? Do you expect to be cursed at by the Lord? Do you expect to be raped by the Lord? Do you expect to be shoved or punched by the Lord? Do you expect to be called names and told

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you are stupid by the Lord? Do you expect to be threatened or abandoned by the Lord? No, of course not! You expect and know that you will be treated with love, mercy, gentleness, kindness, comforting, and understanding by the Lord. Therefore, you are willing to submit yourself to Him.

It follows that if you cannot expect the same kind of love and care from your husband as you can from the Lord – you are NOT required to submit to his abuse.

Jesus wants a holy church that is without blemish. The Bible says, *“So men should love their wives as though they were their own bodies. He who loves his wife, loves himself. For no man ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and carefully protects it, as Christ does the church, because we became members of His Body (when we accepted Him as our Savior).”* (Ephesians 5:28-30)



The sexual unfaithfulness of a husband or wife is the usual cause for separation and divorce. Adultery breaks the trust in the promise of faithfulness. But, there are other kinds of unfaithfulness. Bringing violence into a marriage is unfaithfulness. Once violence has entered a marriage – trust is destroyed. Violence includes all forms of mental and physical mistreatment. Any man or woman who brings violence and abuse into the family is breaking the marriage covenant that God has blessed.



You who are reading this study have made the wise decision to do whatever you can to protect yourself and your children from violence and verbal abuse in your home. It is a difficult decision, but the wisest one you could make – because violence never goes away by itself, someone has to do something about it. You have not broken God's commandment.

You face a lot of choices, and don't really know what to expect, or who you can count on. But, you can always count on the God who said, *“I know the thoughts and plans that I think about you, says the Lord, they are thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you shall cry out to Me, and you shall pray unto Me and I will hear you, and you will seek after Me, and find Me, when you search (in my Word) for me with all your heart (your mind and understanding).”* (Jeremiah 29:11-13)



## *“Oh No! Not Submission Again”*

1. Submission is an \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What does the Bible call my body? (1 Corinthians 3:16)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the price I was bought with?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where and why do I glorify God?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. If true submission is never the act of a victim, what is it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What part is left off of “Wives submit yourselves unto your husbands?” (Ephesians 5:22)  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Bringing violence into a marriage is \_\_\_\_\_.
8. What is destroyed by unfaithfulness?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What does a man or woman do when they bring violence and abuse unto the family?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What two things does God want to give you? (Jeremiah 29:11)  
(The answer to this question will be your memory verse)

MEMORY VERSE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## *“Oh No! Not Submission Again”*

1. Submission is an attitude.
2. What does the Bible call my body? (1 Corinthians 3:16)  
The temple of the Holy Spirit.
3. What is the price I was bought with?  
Jesus' death on the cross.
4. Where and why do I glorify God?  
In my body and my spirit because they are both God's.
5. If true submission is never the act of a victim, what is it?  
An act of humility for a higher cause.
6. What part is left off of “Wives submit yourselves unto your husbands?” (Ephesians 5:22)  
“As unto the Lord”
7. Bringing violence into a marriage is unfaithfulness.
8. What is destroyed by unfaithfulness?  
Trust.
9. What does a man or woman do when they bring violence and abuse into the family?  
Break the marriage covenant that God has blessed.
10. What two things does God want to give you? (Jeremiah 29:11)

MEMORY VERSE: “I know the thoughts and plans that I think about you, says the Lord, they are thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”