

God's Grace In US

Ephesians 5:21-24

Wives “Under the Influence”

The Grace of God at Work Within Us

Transformation from the inside → out!

Like being born all over again:

new desires, inclinations, behavior

LUI – living ‘under the influence’

Under the influence (5:18-21)

- Wives & Husbands LUI (5:22-33)
- Children & Parents LUI (6:1-4)
- Slaves & Masters LUI (6:5-9)

The Principle Explained (5:21)

- Difficult for us to hear – not so for others...
- *hypotassō* – to arrange, line up under
 - recognizes different roles and relationships
 - assumes that authority to lead and willingness to follow is needed and right
 - something we are to do ourselves – i.e. willingly give up the demand to do it our way

The Principle Explained (5:21)

- Difficult for us to hear – not so for others...
- *hypotassō* – to arrange, line up under
- A requirement for each of us
 - In the Christian life, as in life in general, we all find ourselves in different roles and relationships needing to follow the lead of others. No one is exempted.

The Principle Explained (5:21)

- Difficult for us to hear – not so for others...
- *hypotassō* – to arrange, line up under
- A requirement for each one of us
- An expression of God’s authority in our life
 - An inability or unwillingness to appropriately relinquish your own will to others reveals a deeper problem in responding to God’s authority over you.

The Principle Explained (5:21)

Applied to Wives (5:22-24)

- This is a marriage/role issue, not one of gender/worth (vs. 22)
 - Absolutely no tension or conflict with Gal 3:28, Gen 1:26,27, etc.
 - Equality in worth, unity in purpose, diversity in role and function

The Principle Explained (5:21)

Applied to Wives (5:22-24)

- This is a marriage/role issue, not one of gender/worth (vs. 22)
- Rooted in the husband’s “headship” (vs. 23)
 - God’s intent from the beginning, as seen in the created order before sin entered, has been for the husband to serve as head of the home.
 - *Head* – points to leadership role, responsibility to care for; not selfish or oppressive control

The Principle Explained (5:21)

Applied to Wives (5:22-24)

- This is a marriage/role issue, not one of gender/worth (vs. 22)
- Rooted in the husband’s “headship” (vs. 23)
- Parallel: the church → Christ (vs. 24)
 - Pattern: a willing, joyful, loving response
 - Wife called to extensive but not total submission.
 - He may neither legitimately command what God forbids nor forbid what God commands. Acts 5:29
 - A willing, joyous, voluntary disposition to follow his lead wherever and whenever possible!

The Principle Explained (5:21)

Applied to Wives (5:22-24)

One Final Thought...

- The real problem we have with submission lies deep within us...
- A predisposition to insist on your own will and your own way lies at the core of what the Bible calls sin.
- For those of us who have a problem with that (!) there is Good News!