

EPHESIANS 5:18-21

PREPARATION FOR AN OTHER-WORLDLY HOME (PART 2)

The Spirit's filling results in a three-part blend that prepares the way for an other-worldly home.

I. Melodious worship (v. 19)

II. Constant thankfulness (v. 20)

III. Fearful submission (v. 21)

A. The definition of submission

B. The design of submission

C. The domain of submission

Mutual Submission

Nine textual considerations against the mutual submission view:

1. The meaning of submission.

2. The object of submission.

3. The absence of any verb in verse 22.

“There is a minor textual uncertainty in verse 22. Some early manuscripts omit the verb *hupotassomai* in verse 22, so that the meaning has to be carried forward from the participle *hupotassomenoi* in verse 21, thus linking verse 21 to the section that follows. If this is so, then we must (grammatically) understand verses 21 as introducing the section that follows, so that it read, ‘being in submission to one another out of reverence to Christ, wives to your husbands...’ Other manuscripts include the verb separately in verse 22 (albeit in four alternative ways), enabling us to place a major punctuation mark at the end of verse 21 and to read verse 22 as the start of a fresh section. It seems likely that the shorter reading (with no verse in v. 22) is original, the verb being variously supplied later in verse 22 in the interests of clarity when a Scripture reading was to begin with verse 22 (as is done in most English translations).” – Christopher Ash¹

4. The repetition of the submission command and its accompanying ideas.

5. The different commands to the heads of households.

6. The comprehensiveness of the command.

7. The pattern of submission.

8. The similarity of other passages.

- a. Similar commands.
- b. Similar order.

9. The flexibility of the “one another” phrase.

¹ Christopher Ash, *Marriage: Sex in the Service of God* (Leicester LE GP, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 2005), 307-308.