

October 1, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Eph. 5:21 *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. (NIV)*

This scripture comes at the end of Paul's directives for walking in Christ as a married couple. A husband must love his wife as he loves himself, and a wife should respect her husband. This recipe is profitable for the harmony of two who have become one. In the same manner, we are to realize that as Christians, we are not our own any longer, we've been bought with a price (praise God!). But we are now a part of the body of Christ, and we are His beloved. Just as a husband and wife have moved from two individual lives into one life together, so should our marriage to Christ compel us to do so.

I have used this simple diagram in pre-marital counseling for years. As a husband and wife draw closer to the LORD, they will also become more and more in one accord. **James 4:7** also reminds us to ***Submit yourselves, then, to God. (NIV)*** The Greek word **upotagete** means *to place ourselves under the LORD and subject our mind, will and emotions to Him*. As we come into complete submission, we begin to realize a oneness with Him. We begin to desire what He desires, and we want to do what He has called us to do.

This is the true picture of what abiding in Christ should look like. John the Baptist realized this process when he announced this to his followers who had not yet recognized Jesus as the Messiah. **John 3:26-30** *They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him." To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. He must become greater; I must become less."* (NIV)

Dear LORD, we submit ourselves to you today, and every day that You give us. Strengthen us to let go of ourselves and walk in You. In Jesus Name, Amen