**The Biblical Family  
Eph. 5:22-6:4  
Wives**

**I. Their Duty**

5:22 – Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord 5:33.. see that she respects her husband.

*Submit:* primarily a military term; to rank under (to be subject to, to obey)

*Respect:* to fear, to show reverential fear, reverence

**II. The Basis of the Duty**

A wife’s submission to, and reverence for her husband is based on her role as helper (Gen. 2:18 …I will make him a helper…comparable to him). Also, it is based on the husband’s role as the head. (Eph. 5:23 …for the husband is the head of the wife.).

**III. The Boundaries of the Duty**

1. A wife’s duty to submit to and respect her husband is very broad:

5:24 – Therefore as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

I Pet. 3:6 …as Sarah obeyed Abraham calling him Lord…

1. A wife’s duty is NOT absolute. It is mitigated by her duty not to sin (Acts 4:19, 5:29), and her duty not to violate her conscience (Rom. 14:14, 23).

**IV. The Practice of the Duty**

The wife’s duties of submission and respect must shape her:

Thinking, Behavior, Speech

**V. The Critics**

Such teaching:

1. Produces a culture within home and church where abuse flourishes.
2. Is destructive of women’s and girls’ self-esteem.
3. Hinders women in the use of their God-given gifts.