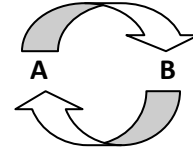


Sense versus Nonsense of Mutual Submission (Ephesians 5:22–6:9)

Water of Life

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November 13, 2014



NEW EXPOSITION

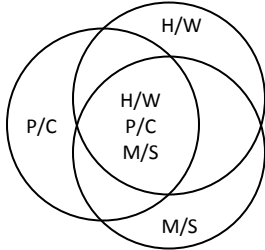
Relationship of 5:21 to 5:22–6:9

... submitting to one another in the fear of God.

The word translated *one another* (*allēlois*) is part of our word par-allel (*para* = beside; *allelōn* = one another. Two parallel lines are lines that beside each other without intersecting, no matter how long they are)

Paul speaks of mutual submission: What does he mean?

Paul gives three sets of overlapping relationships



8 theoretical combinations exist, if viewed as exhaustive: $(2^3 = 8)$:

1	2	3?	4?	5	6	7?	8?
Husband	Husband	Husband	Husband	Wife	Wife	Wife	Wife
Parent	Parent	Child	Child	Parent	Parent	Child	Child
Master	Slave	Master	Slave	Master	Slave	Master	Slave

However, some people are neither husband nor wife;
 some people lack inter-generational relationships;
 some people are free, but do not own slaves.

Twenty-seven generic combinations are theoretically possible (18 are realistic):

Therefore, H/W, P/C, M/S should be seen as illustrative, not exhaustive.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	<u>W</u>	X	Y	A'	B'
H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	U	U	U	U	<u>U</u>	U	U	U	U
P	P	P	C	C	C	ca	ca	c	P	P	P	C	C	C	c	ca	c	P	P	P	C	<u>C</u>	C	ca	c	c
M	S	F	M	S	F	M	S	F	M	S	F	M	S	F	M	S	F	M	S	F	M	<u>S</u>	F	M	S	F
1	2	3	4						5	6	7	8														

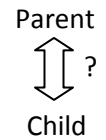
H = Husband; W = Wife; U = unmarried person (neither husband nor wife)
 P = Parent; C = Child; CA = Childless single head-of-household (parents not living)
 M = Master; S = Slave; F = Freeman (who does not have slaves)

What is the big point about the final chart and all of the statistics?

Consider combo W: (U-CA-F) unmarried-childless-parentless adult-freeman w/o slaves

A. Does submit to equal obey?

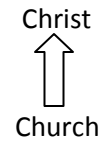
Exhorting children to obey their parents makes sense (Submit to one another)
Can we make exhorting parents to obey their children? (Submit to one another)



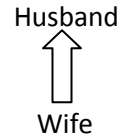
B. Can submit to mean something other than to obey?

1. How does one who has less authority submit to the one with greater authority?

A. The body of Christ to its head (Christ)
Ephesians 5:23f

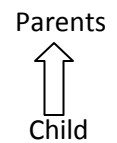


B. A wife to her husband
Ephesians 5:22, 24, 33b



This point is, of course, rejected by many feminists as chauvinistic, but they fail to see that (properly applied) mutual submission safeguards **everyone**.

C. Children to their parents
Ephesians 6:1f

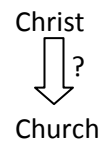


D. Slaves to their masters (What about employees to their employers?)
Ephesians 6:5-7

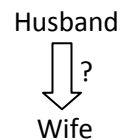


2. How does one who has greater authority submit to the one with less authority?

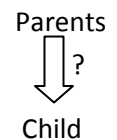
A. Christ to the church
Ephesians 5:25f, 29



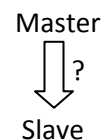
B. A husband to his wife
Ephesians 5:25, 28f, 33a



C. Parents to their children
Ephesians 6:4



D. Masters to their slaves (What about employers to employees?)
Ephesians 6:9



CONCLUSION