

**Review (36): *It's a Wonderful Life: Romancing Mary Hatch: Corporate Marriage: Wife's Responsibility, Eph 5:22-24***

See diagram: "Love in Marriage": <http://berachah.org/lovein.htm>

**Law #2: The responsibility of the wife:**

**Ephesians 5:22** - Wives, submit yourselves to the authority of your own husbands, as to the Lord,

**v 23** - because the husband is the head [ruler] of the wife, just as Christ also is the head [ruler] of the church, He Himself is the Savior of the body.

**v 24** - But as the church is subordinate to Christ, so also wives are under the authority of their husbands in all things.

- 1) Just as the husband must fulfill the First Law of the Christian Marriage by means of the tandem problem-solving devices, so also must the wife fulfill the Second Law in the this same fashion.
- 2) Her recognition and obedience to her husband's authority is dependent upon this principle.
- 3) Respect is the highest form of virtue-love the woman can have for the man.

***Oxford English Dictionary, s.v. "respect":***

1. To give heed, attention, or consideration to; 2. to show partiality or favor;
3. to show deferential regard or esteem towards a person; 4. to regard with deference, esteem, or honor; 5. to treat with consideration; 6. to refrain from interfering with.

***Liddell, Henry & Robert Scott. A Greek-English Lexicon, s.v. φοβέω:***

Deference motivated by fear with a touch of awe.

***Vine, W. E. An Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, s.v. φοβέω:***

1. Reverential fear on the part of the wife for the husband; 2. motivated by reverential fear of God as a controlling motive of the life in matters spiritual and moral; 3. a wholesome dread of displeasing God; 4. an influence on disposition and attitude of one whose circumstances are guided by trust in God.
- 4) Since the woman is not mandated to love the man then there is nothing greater than when she does so from her own free will.
- 5) Her love is expressed responsively through respect which is admiration and approbation combined with deference and partiality.
- 6) Her husband's consecration of her motivates her to respond with esteem for him, an expression of the high value she holds in her soul for her husband.
- 7) Admiration and approbation is how she expresses her love. Deference and partiality is the manner by which she expresses her obedience.
- 8) The Greek verb **ὑποτάσσω** means to subject oneself to the authority of someone. The husband, therefore, is the leader, the woman is a responder.
- 9) The wife's motivation to respond comes from personal love for God and her capacity to respond comes from unconditional love for mankind.
- 10) The wife's willing subordination to the authority of her husband is the result of respect, which is her response to his enduring devotion.
- 11) Her willing submission means her response originates from the freedom of her own soul.
- 12) Therefore, a wife's willing subordination to her husband is not demeaning but instead demands the highest form of integrity on her part.