

Submission to Christ's Headship

1 Cor. 11:1-6

"the Issues of headship and submission should be seen in their broader context, not just as a struggle between men and women, but as a struggle with the issue of authority in general. Since the 1960's, there has been a massive change in the way we see and accept authority. Citizens do not have the same respect for government's authority; students do not have the same respect for the teacher's authority; women do not have the same respect for men's authority; children do not have the same respect for parent's authority; employees do not have the same respect for their employer's authority; people do not have the same respect for the police's authority; and the Christians no longer have the same respect for church authority. It's important to ask: have the changes been good? Do we feel safer? Are we more confident in our culture? Have television and other entertainment gotten better or worse? In fact, our society is presently in and rushing towards, complete anarchy – the state where no authority is accepted, and the only thing that matters is what I want to do." Guzik

- I. The church has been called to submit itself to the headship of Jesus Christ. All things are to fall under his authority, which means that how individual churches choose to conduct themselves must align with the truth of God's Word. Christ's submission to the headship of God over his life while in the flesh, set the example for all believers to follow. His attitude of servanthood, humility and submission is the same attitude leaders are to have toward those they are serving. To lead otherwise is an affront to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 11:1-3

Gen. 1:27

Rom. 14:11

Phil. 2:9-11

Rev. 20:11-13

Phil. 2:5-9

Matthew 20:25-28 *25Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles LORD it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27and whoever wants to be first must be your slave- 28just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

- II. The church has been called to be led by men not women. It is a role given to them by God, not because they are superior to women in any way, but because it is how God chooses to set up leadership in his church. It is his way, and accepting his way falls under the headship of Jesus Christ. Churches that disregard his directive concerning church leadership are rebelling against Christ's authority by bringing their way, and the way of the world, into the church. Churches today are weak and feckless because of it.

1 Cor. 11:3

1 Tim. 2:12

Eph. 5:23

Galatians 3:28 *There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

"... he makes no distinction between men and women as far as personal worth, abilities, intellect, or spirituality are concerned. Both as human beings and as Christians, women in general are completely equal to men spiritually. Some women obviously are even superior to some men in abilities, intellect, maturity, and spirituality. God established the principle of male authority and female subordination for the purpose of order and complementation, not on the basis of an innate superiority of males." MacArthur

- III. If a church is to truly submit to Christ's headship, then it must guard itself against letting the culture define its approach to worshipping God. Believers throughout the ages have been called to represent Christ well to the lost, but we must be careful that we don't bring any aspect of the culture into the church that would compromise the way God set things up in our worship of him. To do otherwise is to tell Jesus that we don't truly want to live under his authority.

1 Cor. 11:4-6