

Relational Awareness ~ Lesson 2 ~ Mutual Submission

In our last lesson we discussed that love is better than spiritual gifts or great works. So maybe we should learn the most about (and try hardest to be) love. We also learned that the epidemic of domestic abuse or malevolent control affects 1 in 4 families in our community. Last week you were challenged to:

- 1) pray for God to replace a negative quality with a positive one;
- 2) to examine the kindness level of the relationships in your home and think of how to improve them; and
- 3) to do one thing throughout the week to practice the attributes of love.

Share how this went.

Today we will look at God's idea of submission. We will see how we are instructed to submit to each other. We will explore what that means for a husband and wife. We will look at the difference between a mutual relationship and an abusive relationship.

1. Read Ephesians 5:21-33. What do you think it means to submit to each other (verse 21)?

The Greek root word used here for submit is *hupotassó*. In non-military use, it was commonly used to mean "a voluntary attitude of cooperating" or "attach."

2. Read verse 25. How are husbands instructed to submit to their wives?
3. When husbands are told to love their wives, the Greek word for love is _____ (sacrificial, selfless).
4. Read 1 John 3:16. How do we know what love is?
5. A husband submits to his wife by sacrificing (dying to himself) for her. What are some practical ways for him to do that?
6. According to verse 33, how are wives instructed to submit to their husbands?

7. A wife submits by respecting her husband. She does this by offering herself as a willing partner. She must honor her husband as much as she honors any other person created in the image of God. (Familiarity breeds contempt.) This type of respect is not earned. Just being a creation of God is reason enough to be respected and valued. In what ways can the wife show respect for her husband?

Acts 5:29 instructs us to obey God rather than men. Husbands are not told to demand submission. A person forcing another person to submit is never instructed in the Bible. Paul is not talking about compulsion, but an attitude of submission on both parts.

We will be looking at the Equality Wheel and the Power & Control Wheel. It's important to see these characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships because there can be no change without first understanding what is wrong. Please disregard gender references because these behaviors are practiced by both males and females.

8. Read the Equality Wheel. Which area has been the strongest in a relationship you've had?
9. Which area has been the weakest in a relationship you've had?
10. Read the Power & Control Wheel. Is there an area that has caused you concern in a relationship you've had?
11. Based on the Greek definition of submission (cooperation), how can you practice submission to others this week?



Your church's Domestic Kindness Action Team (DKAT):

- Equips the whole church with DK instruction in Godly living and
- Connects the oppressed and the repentant controllers to expert help.

If you can be anything, Choose to Be Kind