**“God’s Priorities For Today’s Woman *-Discovering His Plan for You”***

**By Lisa Hughes -Spring 2021**

***PART 2 -- THE ART OF FOLLOWING GOD’S PRIORITIES***

Tuesday, May 11th -Chapter 14– *“The Art of Loving Submission”*

*In Titus 2:5 we will be looking at the final priority for us to implement …”Older women are to train the younger women to be submissive to their own husbands.” “It’s a shame that the word* ***submission*** *inspires such fear and derision in many women, for the Lord intended a woman’s submission to be a means of blessing to her, her home, the church, and the watching world. The word* ***submission*** *means “to arrange one’s self under.” It’s the* ***voluntary*** *attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden. Biblical submission is a voluntary yielding of one’s self to another’s leadership.” p.207*

**T** here is often a gap between what we as women *know* and what we *do* in regards to biblical submission.

**H** ow often we can be guilty of using our husband’s shortcomings as an excuse not to submit to him. p.205

**E** very day our hearts battle with the sin of selfishness-“I love my husband, and I’m not complaining, ***but he…***”

**A** re you familiar with these words? These ***“but he”*** words reveal more about *our* heartsthan his shortcomings.

**R** ecurring selfish responses to and about him exposes that submission is more than an action, it is a heart *attitude.*

**T** his is what makes submission difficult. We simply want *our* way, and struggle to accept his way of doing things.

**O** ne of the continuing consequences of Adam and Eve’s sin is a woman’s desire to lead and control. (Gen.3:16)

**F** or Adam was head over Eve before the Fall. But after the Fall she would desire her husband’s position as head.

**L** et’s thank God that through the cross of Jesus Christ men and women can submit to their God-given roles. p.207

**O** ur willing submission to male leadership within our home and church can be a blessing instead of a “curse.”

**V** ibrant voluntary submission is one of the means God uses to bring about harmony in our relationships. p.209

**I** n fact, the Bible is filled with examples of God’s perfect plans and purposes for a Christian’s submission to others.

**N** ow imagine if everyone wanted to lead in the home, church and workplace and no one wanted to submit-Chaos

**G** od is good! He has also given us in His Word well-defined guidelines that provide the parameters of submission.

**S** imply growing biblically in our understanding of when we should and shouldn’t submit will help us obey God.

**U** nlike any other scripture, Eph. 5:22-24 lays the foundation for **why** we are to submit to our *own* husbands.p.210

**B** eautifully illustrated, these vs’s say that a wife is to submit to her husband just as she would submit to the Lord!

**M** aybe we need to remind ourselves of this daily-“When I submit to my husband, I am also submitting to Christ.”

**I** n studying these verses along with 1 Peter 3:1-6 we learn that there are many reasons why we are to trust God.

**S** pirit-controlled women know that only Jesus Christ alone can satisfy her emotional, physical and spiritual needs.

**S** o, when do I not submit to my husband? When he asks you to sin. You cannot disobey or dishonour the Lord.

**I** f you are forced to choose between submitting to the Lord or your husband, you must choose the Lord. p.213

**O** ur fearless and faith-filled submission to our husband’s leadership is ultimately a *voluntary* act of worship. p.213

**N** othing is too difficult for God—Keep praying! God is faithful! He can help us to submit and our husband to lead!

**“This is our chance to wrap our arms around this priority from God and make *His* priority *our* priority. For our response to this priority of submission determines the vitality of our walk with the Lord. If we are unwilling to obey the Lord in this way, we will become stunted, misshapen versions of the women God desires us to be. God loves us! He wants only what is best for us---and His best includes submission.**

***Every* time we follow God’s priority of submission we give Him glory. And that’s what we live for, isn’t it? To honor God with our lives? So let us lay aside our fears, our failures, and our faintheartedness…and trust that God will use this priority of submission to produce the fruit of trust, hope, and joy in our lives. Now that’s an adventure for a lifetime!” (p. 216-217)**

Looking forward to our next morning study (9:30a.m “Zoom”) and evening study (7:00 p.m. at the Church) together-tomorrow, Tuesday, May 11th—**Chapter 14—“THE ART OF LOVING SUBMISSION”**

With love and prayers and gratitude filling my heart for you all,

Christyn