



**TEACHER: BETH SEIFERT**

**ONAOMI'S TABLE 2016**

**Day 16: Ephesians 5:22-33 Submission is Not a Dirty Word**

**Read Colossians 3:18-19.** What command does Paul give to wives here? To husbands? Does this, in any way, suggest Paul approved of abuse?

**Read 1 Peter 3:1-7.** Why does Peter say wives should be subject to their husbands? Is he speaking of believing husbands here? How do you know? Where does Peter caution women we should *not* find our worth and value? What does Peter say is precious in God's sight? Again, are those things that you can make yourself be? What does Peter tell husbands to do in regard to their wives? Again, is this suggesting that husbands are masters of their wives? What might be hindered for a husband who does not care for his wife in a God-honoring fashion?

**Read Romans 5:7-8.** What did Christ do for us? Did we ask Him to do that? What was our relationship with Him at that point? Knowing that husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church, what does that tell you about how a husband should be willing to treat His wife?

**Read Romans 8:5-8.** What does Paul warn us our minds set on the flesh cannot do? What does that tell you that our minds need in order to do this?

**Read James 4:7-8.** Who should we submit to? What must we do for the devil to flee from us? Does this say anything about "binding" the devil? How, according to verse 8, can we do this? What will happen as we draw near to God?

**Read Hebrews 13:17-18.** Why should we submit to our leaders? How can that help them to lead with joy?

As you spend time with God today consider what submission really means, both in terms of submitting to God and to your husband. Ask yourself why submission is difficult for you, and why you want to be in control. Is it an issue of trust? Fear? Hurt? Ask God to help you to submit to Him and to submit, with grace and a contrite heart, to your spouse as well. Ask Him to help you trust Him above all, even when you aren't sure you can trust your spouse. Ask

Him also to help you to submit to your leaders at your church, knowing that God has put them above you to pastor and protect you and help keep you on the correct path. Ask Him for wisdom and discernment, too, not to simply trust what is taught but to take everything back to Scripture for truth. Praise God for providing a pattern for us to follow in our relationships, and ask Him to help you to honor Him, above all, by your gracious heart and attitude that reflect His glory in your relationships.