

## **Delegated Authority and the Unity of the Spirit<sup>1</sup>**

God has set the *husband* as the *delegated authority* of Messiah, with the wife as *representative* of the *Church* (Eph 5:22-33). It would be hard for the wife to be *subject* to her husband if she did not see the delegated authority *vested in him* by God (1 Pet 3:6). She needs to see that the *real issue* is God's authority, *not her husband's* (Titus 2:4-5; 1 Pet 3:1,5,6; Eph 6:1). The wife recognizes that God has vested his authority in the husband, so she is not submitting herself only to a human being (her husband), but in reality, she is submitting herself entirely to God through His "representative" (the husband). The husband is God's *direct representative* or *delegate* who "sacrifices himself" for her (Eph 5:25). Thus, she desires (in truth) to submit herself to this "loving authority" (Eph 5:28-29). Verses 29-32 explain the *mystery* behind the role of husband and wife. Verse 33 sums up the relationship between the husband and wife.

*Children* obey your *parents* because God has set up the parents as *authority* (verse 23). You either die young or are healed (have a long life) by your honoring (Col 3:20). Children also need to see God's authority. They *learn obedience* through what they *suffer*. Obedience in the church is Heb 13:17 (1 Ths 5:12-13; 1 Tim 5:17).

God has arranged to have the men represent Messiah as *authority* and the women represent the church in subjection (1 Cor 11:3). They wear a *sign of authority on their head*, being subject to their own husbands (1 Cor 14:33-35; 1 Tim 2:11-13; 2 Pet 2:10-11; Jude 9).

*Any reviling* of delegated authority will result in *loss of spiritual power*.

*Submission* and *obedience* will result in the downfall of Satan's Kingdom.

### **Unity of the Spirit**

Eph 4:3 — To Paul, *spiritual unity* was so spiritual that it could not possibly be realized by a mere keeping of *uniform practice*, enforced by compulsion or threat, intimidation or fear (1 Pet 3:6).

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<sup>1</sup> From the notes at the top of the page at Ephesians 5 in Yoneq's old black NASB Bible.

*Emptiness results* when *uniformity* is allowed to masquerade as *unanimity*. Spiritual unity is unity. It means unity and it is expressed in unity — peace. Outward separation is a sure sign that spiritual unity does not exist. There is no such thing as spiritual unity expressed in outward separation. Spiritual unity is unity expressed *outwardly and inwardly*.

Outward unity which does not express an inward unity is an empty husk. Inward unity that does not express outward unity is a *negation of unity*. Spiritual unity does not exist unless it is expressed outwardly. Unity is impossible without the Spirit and Love.

Unity means *unity* — *united*, combined in concert as joint force (Eph 4:16). Common purpose, common pot, common cause, common life. All things in common. Any deviation is a sure sign that unity does not exist. Where there is one Lord, one Spirit, one mind, there is unity — one accord, one judgment. There can be no true unity without being subject to one another in love out of fear of Messiah, without each one being led by the Spirit who dwells in each member of the Body, as true sons of God. Messiah in us is leading us to do this very thing (Jn 14:16-21). He must be *in us*, not just *with us* or Eph 4:16-21 is impossible.

*Unity* means united, combined, acting in concert as a joint force, by joint efforts, joint vigor, being joint heirs, having a common purpose, common cause, common life — all things in common. We are bone of His bone, flesh of His flesh (Gen 2:23-24) — that is the unity of the Spirit.