"WE OUG HT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MAN"
ACTS 5:29
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PETER AND TH E APOSTLES WERE SPEAKING TO THE JEWISH RULERS, WHO HAD JUST COMMANDED THEM NOT TO SPEAK OR TEACH IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

1 PET.2:13-15, "SUBMIT YOURSELVES TO EVERY ORDINANCE OF MAN FOR THE LORD'S SAKE: WHETHER IT BE UNTO THE KING AS SUPREME; OR UNTO GOVERNERS, AS UNTO THEM THAT ARE SENT BY HIM FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF EVILDOERS, AND FOR THE PRAISE OF THEM THA T DO WELL. FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD, THAT BY WELL DOING YE MAY PUT TO SILENCE THE IGNORANCE OF FOOLISH MEN."

TAKING THESE TWO SCRIPTURES TOGETHER, THE MEANING IS PLAIN. GOOD CHRISTIANS ARE OBEDIENT TO THE LAWS OF THE LAND. THEY DO NOT TAKE PART IN ANY CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, JUST BECAUSE THEY FEEL THAT A RULE OF THEIR SCHOOL, OR PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT, OR A LAW OF THE LAND IS UNFAIR.

BUT, IF THE RULES OR LAWS REQUIRE DISOBEDIENCE TO THE LAW OF GOD. THEN, "WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MAN". BUT QUIETLY, GOING ABOUT OUR OWN BUSINESS. NOT DEFIANTLY SEEKING NOTORAITY. AND NOWHERE IN THE SCRIPTURES DO WE FIND AN EXCEPTION FOR CHRISTIAN WOMEN WHICH SAYS, "UNLESS YOUR HUSBAND WANTS YOU TO DO OTHERWISE".

THIS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF STUDY IN THIS LESSON. SO MANY OF US FIND IT SO HARD TO RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE WORD OF TRUTH IN THIS CONNECTION.

ALL INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHRISTIAN LIFE AND OBEDIENCE ARE THE SAME TO ALL CHRISTIANS, MAL E AND FEMALE. GAL.3:26-27, "FOR YE ARE ALL" (MALE AND FEMALE) "THE CHILDREN OF GOD BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS. FOR AS MANY OF YOU AS HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST HAVE PUT ON CHRIST. FOR THERE IS NEITHER JEW NOR GREEK, THERE IS NEITHER BOND NOR FREE, THERE IS NEITHER MALE NOR FEMALE: FOR YE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS."

THEN THE WOMAN IS AS RESPONSIBLE TO GOD FOR OBEDIENCE TO HIS LAWS, AS IS THE MAN. BUT JUST AS THE CHRISTIAN (MALE AND FEMALE), IS EXPECTED TO MAKE INCREASE ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF TALENTS RECEIVED OF THE LORD, (MATTH.25:14-30). EVEN SO EVERY CHRISTIAN (MALE AND FEMALE) MUST WORK WITHIN HIS OWN INDIVIDUAL MEASURE OF FAITH (ROM.12:13, & EPH.4:7-16). THE LORD HAS GIVEN EACH OF US INDIVIDUALLY A JOB, AND A MEASURE OF FAITH, TELLING US HOW TO DO IT. KNOWING THAT FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD, ROM.10:17; THEN WE CAN FIND IN THE WORD OF GOD, EXACT INSTRUCTIONS HOW WE AS CHRISTIAN WOMEN, "OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN."

THE FIRST COMMAND TO A LITTLE GIRL IN HER FATHER'S HOME, IS TO OBEY HER FATHER. SHE IS DEPENDENT ON HIM FOR FOOD, CLOTHING AND GUIDANCE.

BUT, IF SHE IS AN ADULT WOMAN, MAKING HER OWN DECISIONS, AND HAS OBEYED THE GOSPEL: THEN SHE IS AS RESPONSIBLE AS ANYONE ELSE TO "OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MAN", IF HER FATHER SHOULD DIRECT HER TO DISOBEY THE LAW OF GOD. EPH.6:1-3, "CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS I N THE LORD FOR THIS IS RIGHT. HONOR THY FATHER AND MOTHER; (WHICH IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT WITH PROMISE; THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH THEE, AND THAT THOU MAYEST LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH." PARENTS ARE NEVER TO BE IGNORED, AND THEIR ADVICE DISREGARDED, IF IT IS FOR OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD, EVEN BY ADULT WOMEN. AND, THE ~~PHRASE~~ phrase, "HONOUR THY FATHER AND MOTHER", IS AN OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR NEEDS. MATTH.15:46, & 1 TIM.5:3-8, & 16. COL.3:20, "CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS IN ALL THINGS: FOR THIS IS WELL PLEASING WITH THE LORD." THIS CERTAINLY INCLUDES TEENAGERS. REMEMBER JESUS WAS SUBJECT TO HIS EARTHLY PARENTS UNTIL HE WAS THIRTY YEARS OLD, LUKE 2:51. THE CHRISTIAN TEENAGER DOES NOT SNEAK AROUND TO DISOBEY HIS PARENTS. HE DOES NOT IN ANY MANNER REBEL AGAINST THEM; OR SPEAK DISRESPECTIVELY TO, OR ABOUT THEM. HE DOES NOT JOIN ALL THIS YAKING ABOUT THE "GENERATION GAP". FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT IF HE IS LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, HE EXPECTS TO BE OBEDIENT AND RESPECTFUL TO HIS PARENTS. THEN THERE IS NO SO-CALLED GENERATION GAP. "LIKEWISE YE YOUNGER, SUBMIT YOURSELVES UNTO THE ELDER. YEA, ALL OF YOU BE SUBJECT ONE TO ANOTHER, AND BE CLOTHED WITH HUMILITY: FOR GOD RESISTETH THE PROUD AND GIVETH GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." NO SUCH THING AS A GENERATION GAP WITH CHRISTIAN TEENAGERS. THEY ARE HUMBLE AND RESPECTFUL TO THEIR EL DERS. THE LORD WOLL NOT HOLD GUILTLESS ANY PERSON WHO IS CRITICAL, REBEL LIOUS, AND DISRESPECTFUL OF HIS PARENTS. EVEN AFTER WE COME TO THE MATURE YEARS WHEN WE ARE MAKING OUR OWN DECISIONS; AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM.

AS ADULTS WE ARE RESPONSIBLE TO "OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MAN," WHETHER SINGLE OR MARRIED. SOMETIMES WE GET CONFUSED ON THIS POINT, BECAUSE WE DO NOT RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE WORD OF TRUTH. THERE IS TOO LITTLE REALIZATION ON THE PART OF SOME OF US AS TO JUST HOW GREAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD "GOD RATHER THAN MAN". BUT IT IS ALL IN THE MEASURE OF FAITH GOD HAS GIVEN US.

1 PET.3:1-5, & 6, "LIKEWISE YE WIVES, BE IN SUBJECTION TO YOUR OWN HUSBANDS; -----FOR AFTER THIS MANNER IN THE OLD TIME HOLY WOMEN ALSO, WHO TRUSTED IN GOD, ADORNED THEMSELVES, BEING IN SUBJECTION TO THEIR OWN HUSBANDS: EVEN AS SARA OBEYED ABRAHAM, CALLING HIM LORD: WHOSE DAUGHTERS YE

ARE,AS LON G AS YE DO WELL,AND ARE NOT AFRAID WITH ANY AMAZEMENT." 1 TIM.2:12;"BUT I SUFFER NOT A WOMAN TO TEACH,NOR TO USURP AUTHORITY OVER THE MAN,BUT TO BE IN SILENCE." 1 COR.14:34-35,"LET YOUR WOMEN KEEP SILENCE IN THE CHURCHES;FOR IT IS NOT PERMITTED UNTO THEM TO SPEAK;BUT THEY ARE COMMANDED TO BE UNDER OBEDIENCE AS ALSO SAITH THE LAW.AND IF THEY WILL LEARN ANYTHING LET THEM ASK THEIR HUSBANDS AT HOME:FOR IT IS A SHAME FOR WOMEN TO SPEAK IN THE CHU RCH." EPH.5:23-24,& 33,"FOR THE HUSBAND IS THE HEA D OF THE WIFE,EVEN AS CHRIST IS HEAD OF THE CHURCH: AND HE IS THE SAVIOUR OF THE BODY.THEREFORE AS THE CHURCH IS SUBJECT TO CHRIST,SO LET THE WIVES BE TO THEIR OWN HUSBANDS IN EVERYTHING.---AND THE WIFE SEE THAT SHE REVERENCE HER HUSBAND." COL.3:17-18,"WHATSOEVER YE DO IN WORD OR DEED,DO ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS,GIVING THANKS TO GOD AND THE FATHER BY HIM.WIVES,SUBMIT YOURSELVES UNTO YOUR OWN HUSBANDS AS IT IS FIT IN THE LO RD." "AS THE CHURCH IS SUBJECT TO CHRIST." "AS IT IS FIR IN THE LORD." 1 PET.5:5,"YEA,ALL OF YOU BE SUBJECT ONE TO ANOTHER,AND BE CLOTHER WITH HUMILITY." ROM.13:1,"LET EVERY SOUL BE SUBJECT TO THE HIGHER POWERS.FOR THERE IS NO POWER BUT OF GOD:AND THE POWERS THAT BE ARE ORDAINED OF GOD." TIT.3:1,"PUT THEM IN MIND TO BE SUBJECT TO PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS,TO OBEY MAGISTRATES,TO BE READY UNTO EVERY GOOD WORK."SEE ALSO 1 PET.2:13-15.

WE ARE ALL COMMANDED TO BE SUBJECT TO THE LAWS OF THE LAND.TO BE READY TO "EVERY GOOD WORK".BUT WHEN THE LAWS OF THE LA ND CONFLICT WITH THE LAW OF GOD,IT IS NO LONGER A GOOD WORK,AND "WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MAN." THE SAME PRINCIPAL HOLDS TRU E IN ALL OUR RELATIONSHIPS ON EARTH.IF A WOMA N IS A CHRISTIAN,SHE IS RESPONSIBLE FIRST OF ALL TO GOD,EVEN AS THE MAN IS.IN CHRIST THERE IS NEITHER MALE NOR FEMALE,SO FAR AS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO OBEY THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD ARE CONCERN ED.THERE ARE CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE HE HAS GIVEN INDIVIDUALS DIFFERENT JOBS:FOR INSTANCE,THE WIFE IS SUBJECT TO HER HUSBAND,WOMAN IS FORBIDDEN TO TEACH IN PUBLIC,OR SEEK TO USURP AUTHORITY OVER THE MAN.BUT IN ALL THESE THINGS GOD HAS GIVEN THE MEASURE OF FAITH TO GUIDE US.

STILL REVERENCING OU R HUSBANDS,PUTTING THE LORD FIRST.OBEYING OUR HUSBANDS "AS IT IS FIT IN THE LORD".IN EVERYTHING ELSE THE HUSBAND IS BOSS,SO TO SPEAK.HE IS THE HEAD,THE LEADER OF THE FAMILY.HIS ARE THE FINAL DECISIONS IN ALL OTHER THINGS.DISOBEDIENCE AND DISHONESTY,OR REBELLION HERE,IS AS SERIOUS AS DISOBEDIENCE,REBELLION,AND ATTEMPTED DISHONESTY TOWARD THE LORD WOULD BE.GOD H AS HIS REASONS IN RULING THUS.

ACTS 5:1-10,"BUT A CERTAIN MAN NAMED ANANIAS,WITH SAPPHIRA HIS WIFE,SOLD A POSSESSION,AND KEPT BACK PART OF THE PRICE,HIS WIFE ALSO BEING PRIVY TO IT,AND LAID IT AT THE APOSTLES' FEET."(NOTICE,THIS SCRIPTURE DOSEN'T SAY THIS WAS SAPPHIRA'S IDEA.BUT SHE WAS PRIVY TO ACTING OUT THIS LI E.SHE KNEW HE WAS GOING TO GIVE PART,WHILE PRETENDING TO GIVE ALL.AND SHE AGREED TO BACK HIM UP IN IT.SHE WAS BEING SUBJECT TO HER HUSBAND:BUT NOT "AS IT IS FIT IN THE LORD", WHEN IT ENTAILS MAKING OR TELLING A LIE.)"BUT PETER SAID TO ANANIAS,WHY HATH SATAN FILLED THINE HEART TO LIE TO THE HOLY GHOST,AND TO KEEP BACK PART OF THE PRICE OF THE LAND? WHILE IT REMAINED,WAS IT NOT THINE OWN? AND AFTER IT WAS SOLD,WAS IT NOT IN THINE O WN POWER? WHY HAST THOU CONCEIVED THIS THING IN THINE HEART? THOU HAST NOT LIED UNTO MEN,BUT TO GOD.AND ANANIAS HEARING THESE WORDS FELL DOWN AND GAVE UP THE GHOST.---AND ABOUT THE SPACE OF THREE HOURS AFTER,WHEN HIS WIFE,NOT KNOWING WHAT WAS DONE,CAME IN.AND PETER ANSWERED UNTO HER,TELL ME WHETHER YE SOLD THE LAND FOR SO MUCH? AND SHE SAID,YEA,FOR SO MUCH.THEN PETER SAID UNTO HER,HOW IS IT THAT YE HAVE AGREED TOGETHER TO TEMPT THE SPIRIT O F THE LORD? BEHOLD,THE FEET OF THEM THAT HAVE BURIED THY HUSBAND ARE AT THE DOOR,AND THEY SHALL CARRY THEE OUT.AND SHE FELL DOWN STRAIGHTWAY AT HIS FEET,AND YIELDED UP THE GHOST." NOTICE THAT SAPPHIRA WAS JUDGED BY EXACTLY THE SAME SCRIPTURE XXX THAT HER HUSBAND WAS,MATTH.4:7,"THOU SHALT NOT TEMPT THE LORD THY GOD." THE SAME STANDARD APPLIED TO BOTH MALE AND FEMALE.IT WAS NOT FIT FOR HER TO BE SUBJECT TO HER HUSBAND I N SIN.EVEN THOUGH HER HUSBAND WAS XXXX A BELIEVER.1 TIM.5:22,"NEITHER BE PARTAKER OF OTHER MEN'S SINS:KEEP THY SELF PURE.""WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MAN," EVEN OUR OWN HUSBAND.

WE UNDERSTAND THEN,THAT THE REASON WOULD HAVE TO BE OF THE UTMOST CONSEQUENCES FOR A CHRISTIAN TO LEAVE HER HUSBAND.SHE IS COMMANDED TO BE SUBJECT TO HIM.SO,JUST BECAUSE HE WAS JEALOUS,A POOR PROVIDER,HAD ANNOYING HABITS,OR EVEN SCOLDED HER,WOULD BE VERY DOUBTFUL REASONS FOR LEAVING HIM.

IN MATTH.19:9,THE LORD MENTIONS FORNICATION AS THE ONLY REASON IN HIS EYES FOR PUTTING AWAY,AND THAT WAS ALLOWED BECAUSE OF THE HARDXXX NESS OF THEIR HEARTS (MATTH.19:8).BUT A HUSBAND PRACTISING FORNICATION, IS IN THE CLASS OF WHOREMONGERS AND HARLOTS (1 COR.6:18,& 7:4.)

1 COR.6:15-16,TELLS US:"KNOW YE NOT THAT YOUR BODIES ARE THE MEMBERS OF CHRIST? SHALL I THEN TAKE THE MEMBERS OF CHRIST,AND MAKE THEM THE MEMBERS OF AN HARLOT? GOD FORBID.WHAT? KNOW YE NOT THAT HE WHICH IS

JOINED TO AN HARLOT IS ONE BODY? FOR TWO, SAITH HE, SHALL BE ONE FLESH." SO, HERE IS A SCRIPTURAL REASON FOR A CHRISTIAN WOMAN TO SEPARATE FROM HER HUSBAND. BECAUSE: "WHAT? KNOW YE NOT THAT YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY GHOST WHICH IS IN YOU, WHICH YE HAVE OF GOD, AND YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN? FOR YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE: THEREFORE GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY, AND IN YOUR SPIRIT, WHICH ARE GOD'S." (1 COR. 6:19-20).

BUT EVEN HERE, PAUL TELLS HER TO REMAIN UNMARRIED OR BE RECONCILED TO HUR HUSBAND (1 COR. 7:11). IF HE REPENTS AND SEEKS RECONCILATION, A CHRISTIAN DOES NOT CHERISH HARDNESS OF HEART (EPH. 4:32). BUT FORGIVES, EVEN AS SHE HOPES GOD WILL FORGIVE HER OF HER OWN SINS (MATTH. 6:14-15). REMEMBERING THAT IN TRUE FORGIVENESS THE KIND THE LORD BESTOWS, THE SIN IS NEVER BROUGHT TO REMEMBRANCE AGA IN. JER. 31:34, "---FOR I WILL FORGIVE THEIR INIQUITY, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SIN NO MORE." SEE HEB. 10:17.

1 COR. 7:13, & 16, "AND A WOMAN WHICH HATH AN HUSBAND THAT BELIEVETH NOT, AND IF HE BE PLEASED TO DWELL WITH HER, LET HER NOT LEAVE HIM. ---FOR WHAT KNOWEST THOU, O WIFE, WHETHER THOU SHALT SAVE THY HUSBAND?" ALSO 1 PET. 3:1-4, "LIKEWISE, YE WIVES, BE IN SUBJECTION TO YOUR OWN HUSBANDS, THAT IF ANY OBEY NOT THE WORD, THEY MAY ALSO WITHOUT THE WORD BE WON BY THE CONVERSATION OF THE WIVES; WHILE THEY BEHOLD YOUR CHASTE CONVERSATION COUPLED WITH FEAR. WHOSE ADORNING LET IT NOT BE THAT OUTWARD ADORNING OF PLAITING HAIR, AND WEARING OF GOLD, OR PUTTING ON OF APPAREL; BUT LET IT BE THE HIDDEN MAN OF THE HEART, IN THAT WHICH IS NOT CORRUPTIBLE, EVEN THE ORNAMENT OF A MEEK AND QUIET SPIRIT, WHICH IN THE SIGHT OF GOD IS OF GREAT PRICE." SO, IF YOU FIND YOURSELF MARRIED TO AN UNBELIEVER: THIS IN ITSELF IS NOT REASON FOR A CHRISTIAN WIFE TO SEPARATE. BUT NEITHER IS SHE EXCUSED FROM ANY OF HER DUTIES AS A CHRISTIAN, JUST BECAUSE HER HUSBAND IS AN UNBELIEVER. SHE STILL MUST BE SUBJECT TO HIM, WHERE THIS SUBJECTION DOES NOT MEAN DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD. SHE MUST OBEY GOD FIRST, THEN HER HUSBAND, IF SHE CAN. HER HUSBAND, SEEING HER FEAR OF GOD, RESULTING IN HER SWEET PATIENCE, SUBMISSIVENESS, MEEK AND QUIET SPIRIT; SEEING HER MODEST DRESS AND MANNER, AND HER EARNEST LOYALTY TO GOD, MAY BE WON TO THE TRUTH.

ALSO TO GUARD AGAINST HER CHILDREN GROWING UP UNCLEAN, UNHOLY, DISOBEDIENT TO GOD (1 COR. 7:14), SHE MUST EARNESTLY AND ZEALOUSLY TEACH THEM. SEEK TO BRING THEM UP AS YOUNG TIMOTHY, WHOSE MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING HIM UP IN THE FAITH, EVEN THOUGH HIS FATHER WAS AN UNBELIEVER. (2 TIM. 1:5, & ACTS 16:1). IT IS UNCHRISTIAN REASONING TO SAY, "THE CHILDREN ARE HIS TOO. LET THEM CHOOSE FOR THEMSELVES WHEN THEY GROW UP." THEY WILL MOST PROBABLY CHOOSE TO BE DISOBEDIENT TO THE LORD, UNTAUGHT, UNCLEAN, UNHOLY. YOU HAVE FAILED THEM. YOU HAVE FAILED GOD WHO INTRUSTED THEM TO YOU. IN ALL OF THIS THERE WILL BE HURT, LONLINESS, AND DISSAPOINTMENTS. A TRUE CHRISTIAN HAS VERY LITTLE IN COMMON WITH AN UNBELIEVER. IT IS AN UNEQUAL YOKE AGAINST WHICH WE ARE WARNED (2 COR. 6:14). XX THAT IS WHY IT IS SPECIFIED, "SHE IS AT LIBERTY TO BE MARRIED TO WHOM SHE WILL; ONLY IN THE LORD" 1 COR. 7:39. THE WOMAN, GIRL OR WIDOW, WOULD DO WELL FOR HERSELF TO MAKE SURE SHE TAKES AN EQUAL YOKE, ONLY. BUT FINDING YOURSELF MARRIED TO AN UNBELIEVER IS NOT SUFFICIENT REASON TO LEAVE HIM, IF HE IS PLEASED TO DWELL WITH YOU. IF YOU ACCEPT THE MEASURE OF WORK, LONLINESS, HURT, AND DISSAPOINTMENTS, AND STILL REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE LORD: YOU MAY BE GLORIOUSLY REWARDED BY SEEING THE DEAR UNBELIEVING HUSBAND OBEY THE GOSPEL; AND YOUR MARRIAGE BECOME COMFORTABLE AND HAPPY.

IF ON THE OTHER HAND YOUR UNBELIEVING HUSBAND, AFTER TRYING TO BREAK YOUR CHRISTIAN DETERMINATION TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE LORD; MAY, FAILING THIS, BE SO DISPLEASED WITH YOU THAT HE LEAVES YOU. "LET HIM DEPART. A BROTHER OR A SISTER IS NOT UNDER BONDAGE IN SUCH CASES" (1 COR. 7:16). THIS IS A DIFFERENT SITUATION FROM WHEN A WOMAN LEAVES HER HUSBAND, AND IS INSTRUCTED TO REMAIN UNMARRIED, OR BE RECONCILED TO HER HUSBAND. WHEN THE UNBELIEVER DEPARTS BECAUSE HE IS DISPLEASED WITH HER CHRISTIAN MANNER OF LIFE, AND BECAUSE OF THIS NO LONGER WANTS TO LIVE WITH HER IN MARRIAGE: SHE IS NO LONGER UNDER BONDAGE. THE MARRIAGE IS BROKEN. SHE IS LOOSED FROM HER MARRIAGE.

1 COR. 7:27-28, "ART THOU XXXX BOUND TO A WIFE" (OR HUSBAND)?" SEEK NOT TO BE LOOSED, ART THOU LOOSED FROM A WIFE" (OR HUSBAND) "SEEK NOT A WIFE" (OR HUSBAND)". BUT IF THOU MARRY, THOU HAST NOT SINNED; AND IF A VIRGIN MARRY, SHE HATH NOT SINNED."

SUBMITTED IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

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