



CPC QUARTERLY

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From the Pastor's Pen

The Audacity of Submission and Love

On June 19, 1999, Sophie Rhys-Jones married Prince Edward, the youngest son of Elizabeth II, the Queen of England. During the wedding Sophie did something that the late Princess Diana did not do at hers. In fact, what she did caused quite a controversy in England, leading one writer to accuse her of "betraying her gender" and that if she really meant what she did then she must have been suffering from a "terrible malady." What did Sophie do to incite such a reaction? Well, she opted for the traditional Anglican wedding vow (which is the same one that is used in the OPC) and vowed to "obey" her husband.

One of several biblical passages that are used to support this traditional wedding vow is Colossians 3:18-19, where Paul exhorts wives to submit to their husbands and husbands to love their wives. These directives are based upon the differing roles that God has assigned to the man and woman in the marriage relationship. The husband is the loving leader, while the wife is the submissive helper. Being joined together in holy matrimony, the man and woman dance together, but differently: the man leads, the woman follows.

That Paul urges Christian wives to submit to their husbands indicates that the Gospel does not erase marital distinctions and roles. The Gospel transforms but does not obliterate your marital role. Some have argued, however, that it does on the basis of Colossians 3:11 and especially Gal. 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." But in these passages Paul is talking about our spiritual equality, and not our functional equality in the home or

elsewhere. A Jew is not closer to God than a Gentile; a man is not closer to God than a woman; and so forth. We are all one in Christ in that sense. But when it comes to our various relationships, though we are equal in worth, we are not equal in role. An employer has a different role and duty than an employee. A parent has a different role and duty than a child. And a husband has a different role and duty than the wife.

It is because of these differing roles that Paul issues two different commands for the wife and husband. The wife is to submit to her husband in that she is to respect and obey him, while the husband is to cherish and serve his wife, loving her as Christ loves the church. It is to be noted that the distinctive, intimate, and loving relationship between the husband and wife ought to shape and inform how authority and submission is to be expressed in marriage. The husband and wife are one, designed to work together as a team. The fact that the husband wears the "C" on his jersey does not mean that he should treat his wife like a child or an employee or conversely that she should act like a child or an employee. They are husband and wife. He is her king and she is his queen.

Much hay has been made of the title of our new President's book, "The Audacity of Hope." When it comes to marriage in our culture, it would be fitting to talk about the audacity of submission and the audacity of love. Wives, be bold and stand against our culture by submitting to your husband. Husbands, be bold and stand against the culture by not succumbing to its view of leadership and love your wife.

-Pastor Ramsey

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- There is a monthly bible study in Jellico, TN, at the Boll home. Please contact John Boll for the date and time of the Bible study, which will generally meet near the end of the month.
- A London area bible study continues to meet on the first two Wednesdays of the month at the Anderson home. We are studying the book of Hebrews.
- A communicants class in the Mt. Vernon area meets on the third and fourth Wednesdays of the month. This class is designed to prepare covenant children to publicly profess their faith and to partake of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
- A group studying the Westminster Confession of Faith meets in the Mt. Vernon area on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Contact Steve Towery for further details.
- The Laurel County Life Center's Walk for Life is scheduled for April 25, 2009.
- The Presbytery of the Southeast is scheduled to meet in Matthews, NC, on April 24-25.
- The OPC Singles Conference at the Machen Retreat and Conference Center in VA is scheduled for April 24-26. For more information visit this online address: http://machen.org/2009/Spring_Singles/Spring_singles.html.
- The Biblical Worldview Student Conference is scheduled for June 1-6, 2009 at Milligan College, Johnson City, TN. Mr. Matt Hupp will be attending the conference as a chaperone. For more information go online here: <http://www.westminsterkpt.org/bwsc>.

Significant Sessional Actions

- Approved to replace the NKJV with the ESV as the Pew Bible.

Book Notes

- Hywel Jones has written a helpful, easy to read commentary on Hebrews entitled, *Let's Study Hebrews*, published by The Banner of Truth Trust. There is a copy of this book in the church library.

- The bulk of the library books have now been found and placed in the bookcase.
- ESV bibles can be purchased at 40% off the retail price at www.wtsbooks.com.

Financial Report

As of 03/31/09	Actual	Budget
Income:		
Expenses:		
Deacon's Fund:	\$	

Denomination News

- The Seventy-sixth OPC General Assembly will meet at Kuyper College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday May 27, 2009, with a terminus no later than noon, Wednesday June 3, 2009.

Thought of the Quarter

Wayne Grudem:

“Now we must recognize that submission to different kinds of authority may take different forms...Within a healthy Christian marriage...there will be large elements of mutual consultation and seeking of wisdom, and most decisions will come by consensus between husband and wife. For a wife to be submissive to her husband will probably not often involve obeying actual commands or directives (though it will sometimes include this), for a husband may rather give requests and seek advice and discussion about the course of action to be followed (cf. 2 Cor. 8:8; Philemon 8-9). Nevertheless, a wife's attitude of submission to her husband's authority will be reflected in numerous words and actions each day that reflect deference to his leadership and acknowledgment of his final responsibility-after discussion, whenever possible-to make decisions affecting the whole family.”