



*Written by  
Cora Alley*

## "I Win, God Said!"

**Scripture:** Eph. 5:22

*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself up for her."*

**Dramatic Category:** Skermon

**Topic:** Mutual submission in marriage

**Performance Time:** 3 minutes (*excluding sermon comments*)

**Number of players:** 2 players (*1 man, 1 woman*)

**Objective:**

This skermon wakes people up to the dangers of misinterpreting the mandate of feminine submission, without also taking into consideration the mandate of masculine servant hood. This circle of "mutual submission" to one another is a commitment to meeting the needs of one's spouse. One-sided submission is lethal in a marriage relationship.

**Synopsis:**

She wants to go to Hawaii for a vacation, but he wants the money to go toward a new table saw. He is convinced that he is in the right here, because, after all, the Bible says, "Wives submit to your husbands in everything," and where they go on vacation is part of "everything." He completely ignores the fact that the passage goes on to say that husbands are to "give yourself up for her." The pastor interrupts this skit once the conflict is established; he makes his point of the dangers of one-sided submission, then the skit concludes, and so does the pastor's sermon.

**Cast:**

Kelly: A defiant wife  
David: A dominant husband

**Props:**

A dish towel  
A Bible

**Setting:**

One chair, center stage

**Pastor:** Sermon Part I

1. *Establish the introduction to this skit by expounding on the importance of submitting to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.*
2. *Submission is nothing more than submitting our own agenda in order to meet a felt or spoken need of another.*
3. *Christ is our example of servant hood, in that he submitted his dignity not only to wash the disciples feet, but more importantly to suffer the humiliation of the crucifixion on our behalf.*
4. *Set the stage for a misinterpretation of the submission mandate in Ephesians 5.*

**Pastor's cue line:**

*(Let this skit interrupt you by giving the players a cue line for them to come storming onto the stage. This is a very effective way to get them onto the stage.)*

*(David marches onto the stage, carrying his newspaper. He sits on a chair, facing the audience. He buries his face in the paper. His wife, Kelly, follows him and stands behind the chair, wringing her hands in her dishtowel. She looks disgusted with him and stares at him defiantly.)*

**Kelly:** You're missing the point!

**Dave:** *(lowering his newspaper and speaking firmly)*  
Don't tell me I'm missing the point.  
I'm the head of this house, and what I say goes!

**Kelly:** You always get like this. Once you make up your mind, you're impossible.

**Dave:** Of course I am; it's my job.  
When you and me don't agree, I win; God said!

*(He grabs the Bible, which is laying on the floor beside the chair and holds it up to Kelly. She looks at him in disbelief. He puts the Bible back on the floor and continues reading the paper.)*

**Kelly:** I don't think so.

**Dave:** Sure He did. Wives submit in everything, and where we go on vacation is part of everything; we're going fishing!

**Kelly:** I want to go to Hawaii!

*(Players freeze: Kelly with her arms folded facing away from Dave; Dave with his head in the newspaper.)*

**Pastor:** Sermon Part 2

1. Walk up to the players, and comment on the alienation that the exercise of raw power brings into a relationship.
2. Pose this question: "Why is it that we treat our spouses so much worse than we would treat others who are our brothers and sisters in Christ? When we marry a fellow believer, does that person now cease to be our brother or sister in Christ?"
3. Do we now have permission to ignore all the mandates to "love one another, even as I have loved you"? (Jn. 15:12) If that were the case, marriage would not be a desired relationship, rather it would become a lesser relationship for Christians.
4. Introduce the topic sentence for the paragraph, which is Ephesians 5:21 "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." This is the theme of the rest of Eph. 5.

**Pastor's Cue line:**

*(Give the players a cue line to resume the action.)*

**Dave:** I'll tell you what I'm getting at, Kelly. We don't have the money for a fancy vacation.

**Kelly:** But, we do have the money for your new table saw, right?

**Dave:** You expect me to sacrifice my table saw for a vacation? The Bible says I'm the head of the house, and I don't have to sacrifice anything!

*(Dave stands up, moves away from the chair, and faces her. Kelly steps toward him, and ends up standing in front of the chair that Dave just vacated. This is a very important blocking note.)*

**Kelly:** Except yourself. That's what else the Bible says.

**Dave:** God gave me power over you, Kelly.  
*(He places his hand on Kelly's shoulder and pushes her down into the chair.)*

**Dave:** Face it!

**Kelly:** *(Baffled by this display of power)*  
You have power, just because you're bigger, but God gives you only as much authority as you earn.

**Dave:** *(Reaching for his Bible, and turning to Eph. 5: 24.)*  
I don't have to earn anything: Listen, "Now, as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything."

**Kelly:** Go on.

**Dave:** *(Reading silently to himself.)* That's enough. You get the point. *(He tries to hand her the Bible.)*

**Kelly:** Go on, Dave. What else does it say?

**Dave:** *(Mumbling so he can barely be understood.)*  
Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

**Kelly:** I can't hear you? What did you say?

**Dave:** *(Speaking more audibly)*  
Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

**Kelly:** "Gave himself up," Dave. Submission doesn't come cheap. Open your heart; read it for what it really says.  
*(She walks off the stage. Dave follows her, realizing that he was wrong.)*

**Pastor:** Sermon Part 3

1. *The marriage advice in Ephesians is another example of the "paradoxical commands for the Christian life." Such as: "Do good to those who persecute you"; "If someone wants your shirt, given them your coat also," etc.*
2. *The principle is this: give away what you need, and it will come to you; behave in a way that is opposite to your nature. "Lose your life and gain it.; seek to gain your life and lose it."*
3. *Submission is the least likely behavior for a woman because she is a born mother and administrator; hence, she is given the command "opposite to her nature" to submit her tendency toward leadership when it comes to her relationship with her husband. She is to "respect" him rather than "lead" him.*
4. *However, servant hood is the least likely behavior for a man because his ego demands that he be dominant and push his agenda; hence, he is given the command "opposite to his nature" to serve his wife by "giving up himself" (his agenda, his needs) when it comes to his relationship to her.*
5. *The closing of this chapter (Eph. 5:32,33) sketches the relationship of Christ and the Church as a mirror to the relationship between a man and a woman. What a privilege we have to exemplify that metaphor!*