

FROM: ELPIS ISRAEL, Special Edition 1904, pages 55-56

A GREAT MYSTERY

“We are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.”

“In writing to the disciples at Ephesus, the apostle illustrates the submission due from wives to their husbands by the obedience rendered to Christ by the community of the faithful in his day. “As the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.” This was an injunction of absolute submission to their Christian husbands as unto the Lord Himself; because “the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the Head of the church.” But, while he enjoins this unqualified obedience, he exhorts their husbands to return them due benevolence, not to treat them with bitterness, but to love them “even as Christ loved the church, and gave Himself up for it.” **IF THEIR WIVES, HOWEVER, WERE DISOBEDIENT AND PERVERSE, AND CHOSE TO DEPART, LET THEM; A BROTHER IS NOT UNDER BONDAGE IN SUCH CASES” (1 Cor. 7:15). **THEY ARE LIKE THOSE WHO WILL NOT SUBMIT TO CHRIST.** The love which should subsist between Christian brethren and sisters in the married state, is such as Christ manifested for the church by anticipation. “While we were yet sinners Christ died for us,” says the apostle (Rom. v. 6-8). This is the greatest love a man can possibly show, that He should die for His enemies; and this is the kind of love which Paul (**WHO BY THE BYE WAS NEVER TRIED BY A TERMAGANT WIFE**) commends to the attention of the Ephesians; though always on the supposition, that the wives “adorn the hidden man of the heart with that which is incorruptible, even a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the 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 such women are, as long as they do well, and are not dismayed at any threat” (1 Peter 3:3-6).”**