

Col 3:16-17

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Col 3:18-25

18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

- Paul addresses the roles of family members, in the Christian home

Paul addresses the family

- before he goes on to address
- bondservants and masters,
- employees and employers.

Unfortunately, most people in the world are not living to please Jesus.

I'm speaking in terms of commitment to the Lord

- as well as commitment to their family.

According to Forbes the average length of a marriage prior to divorce is eight years.

Statistics also show that 67% of second marriages end in divorce

- and 73% of third marriages end in divorce.

The number of divorces in America from the 45 states that report their numbers,

- recorded a whopping 689,308 divorces in 2021.

57% of couples who did not live together prior to marriage

- stayed married compared to 46% of those
- who lived together prior to marriage.

The first institution God founded on earth is the home.

- Gen 2 mentions the institution of marriage
- as does Matt 19.

Colossians 3:18,

18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Paul addressed the woman first, but it wasn't because:

- she needed to hear this more than the man.

God is a God of order. In fact, in 1 Cor 14:40 Paul says to let all things be done decently and in order.

He also says in 1 Cor 11:3, But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ (we are accountable to Christ), the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Jesus is equal with God, Phil 2:6.

We also know that Jesus chose to submit to the Father.

- This didn't make Him inferior to the Father
- anymore than a wife submitting to her husband
- makes her inferior.

The word "submission" is actually a military term

- meaning to "arrange under rank."
- It's a voluntary submission

If you've been in the military, you understand rank.

It's the same in a marriage relationship,

- just because the woman is to submit to her husband
- does not mean that he is better than her.

However, the man has been given the responsibility of leadership and headship in the home.

But being in a position of leadership does not mean a position of lordship.

- It's a loving leadership and a mutual respect
- for one another as you both serve the Lord together.

In Genesis chapter 2

- God said that it wasn't good that man should be alone.

So God brought a woman to man

- because he was incomplete,
- and He brought her to complete him
- so he wouldn't be alone.

God brought the woman so she could make the man

- what he could never be alone
- and so that he could become something
- he couldn't be without you.

You ladies are a blessing!

The Greek word Paul uses in verse 18 for submit

- is the word “hupotássœ” (to place under in an orderly fashion)
- which is a different Greek word than that used in verse 20
- where children are told to obey their parents.

In verse 22 Paul speaks of the servants obeying in all things.

- The word for obey in verse 22
- is the same as in verse 20, “to listen, to give heed.”

The way a man treats his children

- and the way servants are to obey their master
- are different than the way a man should treat his wife.

Eph 5:21 says to submit to one another in the fear of the Lord.

When a woman marries she takes on a huge responsibility in that she enables her husband to lead the family.

That's why Paul says in verse 18, Wives, submit to your own husbands,

Gen 3:16

16 To the woman He said:

"I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;
In pain you shall bring forth children;
Your desire shall be for your husband,
And he shall rule over you."

Some interpret “desire” as a desire for sexual relations.

- But the word also means rulership or control.

In Gen 4:7 God said to Cain:

7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

The Hebrew word for desire is the same in both verses

- which is only used 3 times in the entire OT.

I believe that part of the curse is woman's desire

- to usurp man's authority
- while the man's unbiblical desire
- is to put the woman under his feet.

When we surrender to Christ, we are renewed in knowledge according to the image of God who created us according to Col 3:10.

We can now put on the tender mercies, the kindness, the humility, meekness and longsuffering.

Col 3:18 (NLT)

18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord.

- We can't expect the world to live according to God's standards,
- but the believers are expected to do so.

You may not feel like submitting to your husband,

- but you do it because the word tells you to do so.

Men, you can make it easier for your wife to submit

- by loving her unconditionally, again, that's scriptural.

Read Proverbs 31

Col 3:19

19 Husbands, love your wives (regard them with affection) and do not be bitter toward them.

Man's priority is to love the Lord. We have an example that God set thru Abraham.

Gen 18:19

19 For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.

TLB - I have picked him out to have godly descendants and a godly household-men who are just and good.

The Lexham English Bible - I have chosen him, that he will command his children and his household after him that they will keep the way of Yahweh, to do righteousness and justice.

One of the Lord's purposes for spending time with Abraham

- was so that he'd teach his family
- the ways of the Lord

Man's leadership in the home begins with our relationship with the Lord.

- If we don't allow the Lord to lead us,
- how can we expect to lead our family.

Before addressing the relationship between a husband and his wife and their children, Paul said "to be imitators of God as dear children."

Your primary identity is your relationship to God.

- 1 Jn 4:19 says We love Him because He first loved us.

Eph 5:8, you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

Men are first to love the Lord

- and make Him our priority.

The word husband comes from an ancient word meaning

- to cultivate or to till the ground.

Jesus said in Jn 15 I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener (another translation calls the Father a "vinedresser.")

The Greek word for gardener or vinedresser is "husbandman,

- one who tills the earth or ground."

When Paul gave instructions to the wife,

- he addressed her will.

When he gave instructions to the husband,

- he address the heart.

In the parallel passage in Ephesians Paul writes,

Eph 5:25

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Our duty is to love your wife as Christ loved the church.

That's an unconditional sacrificial type of love.

1 Cor 11:7 says the woman is the glory of man.

- The woman is the reflection of man.

When we love our wife as Christ loved the church, we make it easy for our wife to submit to us.

1 Peter 3:7

7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them (to hang out with, to spend time with your wife. Your home isn't a pit stop on a racetrack.)

with understanding, (be gracious knowing that she is not perfect)

giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, (respect her, treat her as a child of God and as a sister in the Lord.)

So we are to treat them as the weaker vessel:

and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

It's time to get back to the basics.

- It's time to remember the commitment
- you made when you married.

God will hold each of us responsible for our own behavior

- and obedience to the instructions He gives in His Word.

John 3:16 tells us that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.