

- I) V18-19 INTRO: Wives submit to your own husbands as is fitting in the Lord
REVIEW
- II) As we have studied Colossians I mentioned the first two chapters were doctrinal
Belief always directs **behavior**, so **doctrine** comes before **doing**
- III) The first verses of ch 3 commanded us to *take off* the old life and put on the new
Take off fornication, uncleanness, evil passions and desires, and covetousness
- IV) All of these sins are associated with **unlawful sexual conduct**
- V) V8-9 He commanded believers to put off a variety of other kinds of sins
Put off anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language, and lying
WHY DO THIS?
- VI) The old life has been put to death/put away, and a new life now exists
WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND
- VII) When we came to faith in Jesus and were born again, **the old man** was put to death
The old man is our corrupt, sinful nature and is recognized as being crucified
Ro 6:6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that **the body of sin**
might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin
- VIII) The body of sin was put away with because we received a new nature
The power of the gospel has set us free from the domination of sin
Sin is overcome by the work of the cross: we can live as free people
- IX) In Christ, we are no longer slaves to and dominated by sin
- X) This is made possible because we are now ruled by Jesus and are free, in Him
We now walk in newness of life by the same power that raised Jesus
Eph 1:19-20 the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe,
according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised
Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places
- XI) This new life is the outward evidence of a Christian
As a Christian, we are known by what we have **put on**
Compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering and forgiveness
- XII) V14 **Love** is the belt that completes the ensemble and binds everything together

- I) **THE FACT IS**
You can appear to have compassion, kindness, humility, etc and yet be insincere
If the motives are improper, the behavior is not genuine fruit of the Spirit
- II) Artificial fruit can appear real until you try to eat it!
If **God's love** does not bind the outer garment, all else is just outer appearance
- III) Paul ended that section with an exhortation **to do all** in the name of the Lord Jesus
This is revealed as we love and care **for one another**
- IV) This is especially show by caring **for those of their own families**
Paul now writes concerning the relationship of a wife and husband
This is where genuine faith is most clearly revealed
PAUL NOW SPEAKS OF FAMILY LIFE
- V) V18 Wives **submit to your own** husbands as is fitting in the Lord
Paul now gives practical teaching about doing everything in the name of Jesus
He begins with the home and begins with wives, building on submission
- VI) V18 Submit to your own husband
WHAT IS SUBMISSION
- VII) The word **submit** means to put under or to arrange under
It is a military word, where lower ranking soldiers are under the orders of officers
This means that submission speaks of **acknowledgment of authority**
- VIII) **First:** As believers, we know that we submit to God who has all authority
Jas 4:7 reads Therefore submit to God (Heb 12:9)
- IX) **Second:** We also know that we are to submit to governmental authority
2 Pe 2:13-14 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.
- X) **Third:** Young men are to submit to their elders, recognizing their age and wisdom
1 Pe 5:5 You who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders
- XI) **Fourth:** In general practice Christians submit to one another
Eph 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God

- I) In this context **a Christian wife submitting** to her husband is what Christian's do
In the family, believing wives live within the order of biblical headship
WHY DOES THIS MATTER
- II) The attitude of submission encourages health and stability in the family
It also establishes and helps to maintain a proper authority in the home
DEVELOP
- III) Obviously, **marriage** already existed but **Christian marriages** were brand new
In the command to submit, Paul followed an established norm
- IV) In commanding to submit **as is fitting in the Lord**, he blessed **marriage in Christ**
As is fitting speaks of what is proper, by reason of **original creation**
1 Co 11:3 But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.
- V) He is not suggesting women are inferior, but is saying **God receives glory** by this
PETER ALSO GAVE US INSIGHT
- VI) The apostle Peter also wrote about marriage, giving us insight into this subject
In 1 Pe 3:1 he wrote that wives were to be submissive **to their own husbands**
This included unbelieving husbands who would observe their way of life
- VII) The reason they submitted was because it gave opportunity to share Jesus
1 Pe 3:1-2 Wives in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any do not believe the word, **they may be won over without words** by the behavior of their wives when they see the purity and reverence of your lives
- VII) Their submission was the fruit of their pure lives and fear of the Lord
This could be used by the Lord to give them opportunity to share with them
- IX) In the same passage he commanded wives to cultivate **the hidden person of the heart** and spoke of the **incorruptible beauty** of a gentle and quiet spirit which is precious in the sight of God and that holy women have always adorned themselves in this way
THIS SPOKE OF THEIR CHARACTER
- X) This did not make women less, but in fact made them worthy of emulation
They were women of **character** and were **honoring the** Lord by their lifestyle
Cultivating a gentle and quiet spirit gave honor to the Lord, and her husband
- XI) In our day we are saturated with commercials advertising **outward beauty** aids

- I) There are not many ads that I am aware of that promote cultivating inner beauty
This has lent itself to the over emphasis of external beauty
There aren't any ads that encourage women to cultivate submission
- II) Peter said that the hidden person of the heart is what should be cultivated
Outward beauty doesn't last, but inward beauty is better
Pr 31:30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised
- III) He made it clear that this kind of life might even win an unbeliever to Jesus
- IV) When writing of Sarah's relationship to Abraham he said that she called him **lord**
1 Pe 3:6 he wrote Sarah **obeyed** Abraham, calling him lord
This referred to her **respect** for him that was the fruit of her godly heart
- V) In this verse we have a simple command to Christians wives
- VI) V18 Wives submit to your own husbands as is fitting in the Lord
This is something echoed in Ephesians
Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
- VII) Why is submission so important
A wife's submission ultimately reveals her relationship to the Lord
It also increases the possibility of a home that is in spiritual order
- VIII) **Quote**: This speaks of the attitude of unselfish service, emphasized by the special fact of man's ordained leadership
- IX) Her submission is also spoken of as fitting (proper, appropriate) in the Lord
QUOTE: It is fitting, both in regard of God's command, as well as in the light of the evil that would arise from the neglect of this duty
- X) At this point I want to make it clear that I don't take this subject lightly
It is one of the areas of a marriage that is most difficult to practice
DEVELOP
- XI) I understand that such an attitude is difficult to have
Learning to live in harmony is not an easy thing and submitting is difficult

- I) We want *what we want* when we want it, and it can become a battle that is waged
In some ways we see it as giving up power to someone else
Sometimes we don't trust them, or have lost confidence in them
- II) It can take years to find a place of mutual respect and compromise
But it is worth it because it helps us to have peace in our lives, and our homes
- III) As a kid, I grew up in a home that was on often very difficult to live in
My mom battled with sicknesses of various sorts that began when she was 24
My dad bought her a new car when she was 25, but for years she couldn't drive it
- IV) If anyone had a reason to resist being submitted, she did
Yet, though there were many rough times, she grew to be a submitted wife
My father became her everything, and she modeled a caring wife until he died
- V) Submission is not **weakness**, but it is an investment in the home
- VI) As a man, I am not at war with women; in fact, I love and value them deeply
As a pastor I do not want you to be weak but desire you **to be blessed** by God
- VII) I have two daughters, two daughters in law, and several grand daughters
I don't encourage them to be pushovers, but to be all God made them to be
- VIII) The greatest desire I have for them is for them to be under God's authority
- IX) I desire the married women to be good wives and good mothers
I want them to be role models to their children who will bless them
Pr 31:28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also and he praises her

HE CONTINUES

- X) V19 **Husbands** love your wives and do not be bitter toward them
It is interesting how Paul told wives to submit but commands men **to love them**
- XI) When he commanded men to love their wives, he used the word agapao
Paul is saying the love a man has for his wife is to be characterized by self-denial
Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her

- I) Jesus' love for His church was so great tht He laid down His life for her
- II) A husband does not save the wife, but takes carries the *major part* of the burden
He willingly bears with her weaknesses, and gives himself up for her, alone
- III) He gives himself to her, washes her with God's word, and presents her to Jesus
His love for the Lord and for his wife is sacrificial, and complete
This evidences his love for her, and can secure her love for him
- IV) Peter also spoke of the husband's love for and relationship to his wife
1 Pe 3:7 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
- V) In these commands he gives insight into *sacrificial love*
- VI) First, he commands us to **Dwell with them** with understanding
Dwell with them: Take an active interest in your wife; get to know her needs, be acquainted with the things happening in your home; be considerate towards her
Appreciate the work she puts into making a house a home; learn to notice her efforts to make it personal as she uses her creative energy; do not use your home as your hotel
- VII) Next, he says we are to Give **honor** to them as the **weaker vessel**
- VIII) **Giving honor** speaks of assigning dignity to her
We does this by the way we speak **to** her, and the way we speak **of** her to others
- IX) This speaks of verbally lifting her up instead of belittling her and running her down
Pr 12:18 Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing
- X) The way I speak to my wife encourages or diminishes her personal value
Our wives desire for us to speak kindly, lovingly, and gently to them
- XI) We should tell her we love her, she is beautiful, we need her and value her
Pr 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord

- I) We don't verbally bully her but instead learn to share with her how we value her
We do not bring up past sins, we do not raise our voices, we do not belittle her
- II) We are gentle and kind to her because we want to reveal that we cherish her
This builds up her sense of value, and provokes her to desire to care for you
Eph 5:28-29 Husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, **just as the Lord does the church**
- III) As Christian men we especially should develop our role as spiritual leader
Eph 5:26 that we should cleanse her by the washing with water through **the word**
When we encourage our wives in the Word they become **beautiful** in every way
- IV) Paul says we cleanse her by the washing of water through the word
Word: Rhemati; an utterance;
This speaks of communicating God's word to her in a priestly way
- V) We should become spiritually mature enough to help them in their journey
Get involved in personal reading and take advantage of men's groups/ministry
Our wives should grow to trust us with their spiritual growth
1 Co 14:35 If they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home
- VI) A wife is washed by God's word and is a testimony of *the ministry of the husband*
This produces a relationship that is blessed by God and a model to others
- VII) Learn to spend time with her in the Bible, in fellowship, in prayer, and in studies
Agreeing to live by God's Word saves us from many arguments
- VIII) Peter speaks of the wife as the weaker vessel
She is called *weaker* because she is **normally** physically weaker and is tender
- IX) Treat her gently: Do not verbally bully her or physically abuse her
Lead her through *love*, not through force
Treat her like a lady: treat her as if she is the most important person in your life
- X) This teaches girls what to expect from a man, and teaches boys how to treat a lady

- I) I remember speaking to a man who did not cherish his wife
He had a young daughter, and I knew that he deeply loved his little girl
- II) I remember saying to him: You love your little girl, don't you? And he answered Yes, I do, with all of my heart. I then asked him a simple question: How are you going to feel when someone **just like you** shows up to take out your daughter?
- III) As husbands, we understand that we *both are* sinners saved by grace
We also realize that **we are one**, and as a team we **stand** together or **fall** together
- IV) I have come to know that my wife is living evidence of my true ministry
She is the greatest reflection and open expression of my walk with the Lord
1 Co 11:7 woman is the glory of man.
- V) As we age, we should be appreciating and loving one another more deeply
The more we experience together, the greater our bond of love grows
- VI) We go through all of life's ups and downs, together
Over the years, as we follow the Lord, our lives become richer and deeper
Song of Solomon 8:7 Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it
- VII) We are heirs together of the grace of life
She is not less than me, but rather, we but equal before God
- VIII) 1 Pe 3:7 We are heirs together: we equally share in the need and grace of God
As such, I am to encourage her walk in the Lord and be the man she respects
- IX) As we serve Jesus together our prayer life will be fruitful and our lives blessed
She belongs to the Lord and we respect her walk with Him as His little girl
As such, we refuse to Lord it over her but instead lead her in the things of Jesus
- X) As we do, our prayers will not be hindered
- XI) As a husband I serve her and care for her spiritually, emotionally, and physically
This requires constant "denying of self" which we do by degrees, daily
Pray, fellowship, worship, read, and serve with her

- I) Col 3:19 Finally, Paul says Do not be bitter toward them
Bitter: Exasperate, to render angry, indignant; to become irritated
- II) Do not ill tempered and rude with them because it results in them doing the same
Instead, love them and treat them with gentleness and respect
I CLOSE WITH A QUESTION
- III) How many divorce because the wife is *submitted* and the husband *sacrificial*