

8/1/99

Husbands And Wives
Col. 3:18-19

Marriage in the American society has been degraded in the last thirty year, making it a nice option if one chooses to partake of it but certainly nothing to be taken seriously.

We have embraced the philosophy of permissiveness, pleasure and personal opinion rather than maintaining to an absolute standard of morality.

1. Our society believes that sex is between two consenting adults married or not.
2. Our society believe that the safest thing to do is pass condoms out in our High Schools, rather than teach them morality and consequences.
3. Our society to appease the public allowed a “no fault divorce” that was exercised at an alarming rate for decades.
4. Our legislators continue to tax the family member more than those who are living together.
5. Our society for the most part, has no idea of what an average home is, where the father works, the mother stays home and raises the kids and the children are held accountable for their actions.

But there is hope in Christ, for He alone can turn a person around as well as a marriage.

He has been telling the Colossians from the beginning about the life of one who is a Christian and when he arrived at chapter three he is very specific about the New Man:

1. He began by telling them that he had been praying that they may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. 1:10
2. He told them that they had been delivered from darkness and transferred to the kingdom of the Son of God’s love. 1:13
3. He told them that as they had received Christ they were to walk in Him. 2:6
4. They had been raise with Christ. 3:1
5. They were to put on the New Man and were to put him on daily. 3:10, 12

Having done so, Paul now focuses on the New Man’s home that is to be characterized by obedience to Christ, in order that Christ reign supreme in the home.

There is probably no greater witness that the church can give to the world and their communities than godly Christian marriages.

Wives and husbands that have new potentials, new power and priorities in their homes.

Christian homes are not perfect but they are to be different in behavior and attitude, due to being new creatures in Christ.

Paul addresses six individuals which normally constituted the home in those days and they are set up in pairs.

- I. Wives are to submit to their husbands
- II. Husbands are to love their wives
- III. Children are to obey their parents
- IV. Parents are not to provoke their children.
- V. Servants are to obey their masters
- VI. Masters are to be just to their servants

We want to focus our attention on what the New Man is to be in the home regarding the wife and the husband by a simple three-fold division. Col. 3:18-19

- I. Woman and marriage in Paul's day.
- II. Wives are to submit to their husbands.
- III. Husbands are to love their wives.

I. Woman and marriage in Paul's day.

A. The Jews view of women:

- 1. The Jew had a low view of women in view of the New Testament.
- 2. A Jew prayed and thanked God in his morning prayer that he had not made him a Gentile, a slave, or a woman.

- 3. There were two schools of thought for divorce:
 - a. The school of Shammai, which believed that adultery was the only biblical reason for divorce, this was the conservative side.
 - b. The school of Hillel believed that every cause was legitimate, this was the liberal side:
- 4. The reasons they often used for divorce were as follows.
 - a. She put too much salt in his food.
 - b. She went about with her head uncovered in public, showing disrespect to her head.
 - c. She spoke to a men in public.
- 5. Their belief was based on the text in Deuteronomy. Deut. 24:1-4
 - a. The text did not teach what they said it did, it simple said "for some uncleanness" but it is not stated.
 - b. Rabbi Akiba interpreted the uncleanness to mean if he desired a more beautiful woman than his wife, that would make her unclean.
 - c. Men could divorce, but not a woman except for leprosy and insanity:
 - d. The man would give her a bill of divorce written by a Rabbi, signed by two witnesses and he would hand it to her and her dowry.

- * Think, about it, the Jews had the highest ideal of marriage!
 - e. The text was both a protection of the woman who was being divorce without just cause and a warning to the husband that once she was gone and married to another, he couldn't take her back, even if her second husband died.
 - f. The text was an orderly manner by which God allowed divorce due to the hardness of the man's heart, in a way to maintain social order and not depreciating marriage.
6. Jesus clearly pointed their error of such interpretation in His discourse on marriage and divorce. Matt. 19:3-10
- a. Jesus answering the question if it was lawful to divorce one's wife for just any reason, pointed them back to creation and God's deign for marriage, both being one flesh, what God joined no one was to separate. Matt. 19:3-6
 - b. Jesus answering a second question as to why Moses had given the provision in Deuteronomy said, that it was due to the hardness of their hearts but it was not so from the beginning of creation. Matt. 19:7-8

- c. Jesus then proceeded to tell them that whoever divorced his wife for any reason other than sexual unfaithfulness, he or she would be committing adultery, if they remarried. Matt. 19:9
 - d. Jesus drew from His disciples their own heart belief as they said, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry". Matt. 19:10
- * What school do you think the disciple of Jesus were, Shammai the conservative or Hillel the liberal? They believed a man could divorce his wife for just any reason!
- B. The Greeks view of women:**
1. Prostitution was a part of Greek life.
 2. Demosthenes laid it down as an accepted rule of life.
 - * He said, "We have courtesans for the sake of pleasure, we have concubines for the sake of daily cohabitation, we have wives for the purpose of having children legitimately and having a faithful guardian for all our household affairs."
 3. In Greek culture the respectable woman had no public life.

4. Xenophon's aim was that she might see as little as possible, hear as little as possible and ask as little as possible.
5. She was to run the home, care for the children, while the man found pleasure elsewhere.
6. Divorce was nothing more than a change of mind, opinion or fancy.

C. The Romans view of women:

1. Was even worse.
2. But surprisingly within the first 500 years of Roman Republic there had not been one single divorce until 234 B.C. when Spurius Carvilius Ruga divorced his wife because he was childless.
3. After a while, Greek culture had taken it's toll on the Roman society and it began to permeate and decay it's moral fiber.
4. Martial tells of a woman marrying her 23rd husband and she was his 21st wife.
5. Kato, "If you find your wife in adultery you can kill her, but if she catches you she does not touch you."

Illustration

L.A. Times, Orange County, November, 1974: said there had been 6,372 marriages and 6,702 divorces in the first 6 months.

* We are now twenty-five years down the road!

Application

1. Now we better understand how radical the words of Jesus to the woman caught in the very act of adultery. Jn. 8
2. The woman caught in adultery was brought to Jesus and He elevated her to an equality with man in terms of guilt and rights under the law and eyes of God.
3. Any attempt by women or men to charge God and Christianity with such a view of women is a statement 'of ignorance regarding the Scriptures.
4. There has never been any culture, philosophy, or movement that has ever cared and done more for women than Christianity.
5. Study the history of countries where biblical Christianity has made an impact as to the condition of women before and after.

These were the woman and marriage in Paul's day!

II. Wives are to submit to their husbands. vs. 18

- A. Paul commands the wives to be submissive.
 1. This command is based on the foundation of the preceding verses. vs. 12-17
 - a. Without yielding to God's Holy Spirit and love, this can not take place.

- b. Without yielding to God's word that is learned, this can not happen.
- 2. This is to be a marked quality of the Christian wife, that of submission.
 - a. It is to be the evidence that the risen Christ is reigning not only in heaven but in her heart. 3:1
 - b. It is the evidence that she is putting on the new man. 3:10, 12
- 3. The word submit is a unique word chosen for the woman.
 - a. The word is not the one used for children, obey "hypakouo" which means to listen, to give audience and have a readiness to carry out the verbal communication in obedience.
 - b. The word for the wife in distinct contrast is "hupotasso" which means to draw up under, it is a military word.
 - * It is found in Paul's epistles thirty times of the thirty-eight times it appears in the New Testament, Hebrew being one.
 - c. The word has nothing to do with inferiority but all to do with God's design for efficiency, after God created order. Gen. 2:18-25, 1Cor. 11:3
 - 1) If the word did communicate inferiority then we would have to

- conclude that Christ is inferior to the Father, for Paul declares that He is the head of Christ. 1Cor. 11:3
- 2) The submissiveness of Christ to the Father as "head" is compared to the submissiveness of the woman to the man, for efficiency in accord with God's design and purposes.
- d. The woman's submission is voluntary in obedience to God's design, indicated by the middle voice. Eph. 5:22, Tit. 2:5, 1Pet. 3:1
- e. Submission is not limited to the wife but is to be mutual, both are to submit to each other, in the fear of God. Eph. 5:21
 - 1) Knowing their responsibility to live out their divine roles before God.
 - 2) Knowing their accountability before God at the Bem-Seat of Christ.
- B. Paul commands very specifically in his directive, her submission is to be to her own husband, not to any or every man.
 - * Eph. 5:22, Col. 3:18, 1 Pet. 3:1, Tit. 2:5
 - 1. The submission is expressed with the article, submit to your own husband, "you wives to your husbands", not just any or every man.

- a) The extreme belittling and abuse of women by men, be it verbal or physical is wrong and an offense to God.
 - b) The protection of the woman is in view, so that she is not abused or mistreated by any other man but protected by her covering, her husband.
2. The result of the fall brought about a rebellious sort of attitude in the woman and a domineering one in the man.
- a. God said to the woman after the fall, “your desire shall be to your husband”. Gen. 3:16
 - 1) The word “ desire” means longing or stretching forth.
 - a) Some say that in Eves case it refers to her sexual desire for her husband, but the context is the curse not a blessing.
 - b) The more appropriate meaning would be that Eve’s desire now in view of the fall, would be to lead and usurp Adam’s authority, rather than submit as intended by God.
 - b. The phrase “your desire” appears only two other times in the Old Testament. Gen.
 - 1) The first in view of Cain by declaring that sin lied at the door,

and it’s desire is for you, but you should rule over it.” Gen. 4:7
 * The meaning is that sins desire is to master Cain as a ravenous beast, read to leap on it’s prey.

- 3) The second is the expression of the Shunanmite about her groom, “I am my beloved's, And his desire is toward me.” Song of Sol. 7:10
 * The meaning is his sexual desire towards his bride.
- 4) Being rich in Christ's Word, she lovingly and willingly can and desires to submits to her husband, knowing the full counsel of God.
- 5) Now her submission is based on her priority to pursue the peace of God in her heart, after the New Man. 3:15

C. Paul gives the reason for his command to submit, it is fitting in the Lord.

- 1. The command is the most natural of all by the expression “as it is fitting in the Lord”.
 - a. In view of the fact that they were new creatures in Christ.
 - b. In view that they had a new potential.
 - c. In view that they had made a covenant with their husbands.

- d. In view that they were very aware of God's created order.
 - e. In view of the fact that God desires to give the best to each marriage by obedience to the manual, the Bible.
 - f. In view of the fact that God wants to provide the world with a visible example of what God can do in the marriage of two sinners.
2. The word fitting "aneko" means to come up to, arrive at, to reach to, that which is proper and appropriate, one's duty as a Christian.
- a. The idea being according to God's design and purpose. Eph. 5:23-24
 - b. The submission is done "as to the Lord", the attitude of a servant. Eph. 5:22
 - * It appears three times in the New Testament. Eph. 5:4, Phil. 8 translated, "convenient".
 - c. Peter says it is an ornament of meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. 1Pet. 3:4
 - * The context is submission to a non-believing husband.
 - e. For this reason Paul tells Timothy that he did not suffer a woman not to usurp authority over the man, in the church leadership, giving creation and the fall as the reason. 1Tim. 2:12

- f. Paul teaches the submission in a double analogy, of the church to Christ and the wife to the husband, "Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything." Eph. 5:24
 - 1) Everything means everything that is Scriptural and honorable, not violating her conscience.
 - 2) God never intended any woman to be abused verbally, physically or sexually, nor to have her conscience violated to the truth of the Word.
- f. It is that which brings honor and glory to God because it is done in the name of Christ. 3:17
 - 1) Even those with unbelieving husbands are to be in subjection to their own husbands. 1Pet. 3:1
 - 2) In as far the Scriptures dictate!

Illustration

Much like an employee submits to his supervisor, to accomplish the job and be affective, understanding his or her role, yet they may be more intelligent than the person they submit to.

Application

1. Submission is hard for women today for many reasons.

- a. They have a longer time of independence before marriage.
- b. They have many bad experiences with young men who want to rule them and in fact control them in their youth.
- c. They have experienced sexual intercourse prior to marriage which is depicted many times as a conquest and being used.
- d. They have bought the entire liberated woman philosophy of today.

2. Some of the reasons the Scriptures give for a woman's submission are as follows.

- a. It is a marked characteristic of the daughters of Sarah, not daughters of Eve. 1Pet. 3:6
- b. It exalts God's order. 1Cor. 11:3, Eph. 5:21-33
- c. It is a picture of the Church to Christ. Eph. 5:23

3. Submission is the evidence of a new creature that can live out the new home. Rom. 12:1

Wives are to submit to their husbands!

III. Husbands are to love their wives. vs. 19

- A. Paul commands husbands to love their wives.

- 1. The capacity again is in view of their new potential in Christ, the New Man. 3:10
- 2. The husbands are the head of the home as Christ is the head of the church. Eph. 5:23
 - a. As head, he is responsible for the leadership of the home.
 - b. As head, he is responsible for the provisions of the home.
 - c. As head he is responsible for the protection of the home.
 - d. As the head, he is responsible for the spiritual direction of the home, he is the high priest of the home.
- 3. The husband is to love his wife.
 - a. The word love is "agape" identifying God's love.
 - b. The love of God is best described in Johns gospel. Jn. 3:16
 - 1) It is God's love which is selfless, self-sacrificing and sufficiency for all things.
 - 2) It is God's love which gives life and true meaning to the other two kinds of loves, phileo, the emotional love and eros, the sexual love.
 - 3) It is God's love described for us as never failing. 1Cor. 13:1-8a

- 4) It is God's love that is called the fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22
- 5) It is God's love that is illustrated by Christ's love for the church. Eph. 5:25
- 6) It is God's love that is also illustrated by a man's love for his own body. Eph. 5:28
- c. Literally it says, keep on loving your wives.

B. Paul commands again very specifically in his directive, his love is to be to his own wife, not to any other woman or every woman.

- 1. This is a life long process.
 - a. Men and women in Christ should not enter into marriage lightly without considering the commitment for life.
 - b. Men and women in Christ need to make sure their mate is a Christian, so as to not be unequally yoked.
 - c. Men and women in Christ should not get married on a rebound or at the to quickly.
 - d. Men and women in Christ should not get married for mere beauty, sexual lust or money, it will not hold you together when there pass or in the tough times.

- 2. This process does not happen automatically.
 - a. There must be a commitment to cultivate one's own love relationship with the Lord, in the word and prayer.
 - b. There must be a commitment by each person to each other, to be as gracious as Christ has been to them.
 - c. There must be a commitment to should love by word, deeds by one's own diligence.
 - d. There must be a commitment to each other to be faithful, loyal and by one with each other, so as to not be divided.
 - e. There must be a sensitivity by both to not be more sensitive to other men or woman than each other.
 - * Many times the man can be courteous and helpful to others, but not to his own wife.
- 3. This process must be cultivated, daily.
 - a. The process begins the minute you wake up, how you talk and act towards your mate.
 - b. The process is through thoughtfulness, perhaps calling during the day to just tell them you love them or before you leave work, if there is something needed.

- c. The process is tested when you get home, if you are sensitive and loving to each other.
 - d. The process yields its fruit at bed time with a desire for each other, as an expression of love and appreciation for them.
4. This process, can not be done to its full potential apart from Christ.
- a. Even Christians have bad marriages, due to the fact that they are disobedient and carnal, living as natural men and women.
 - b. Christians can admit their failure and repent and trusting Christ, they can press on to a loving and better relationship.
 - c. Christians in their marriages have difficulties and problems like any other marriages but they are to resolve all through obedience to the word of God, by denying self, picking up their cross and following Christ.
 - d. Christians should be having so much fun in their marriages that their children should have the best example of marriage.
- * Not perfect but that they have seen a committed, loving relationship through humbling oneself and calling on God!

- C. Paul commands husbands to not be bitter against their wives.
1. The word bitter “pikraino” means to embitter.
 - a. The idea is of being resentful, angry and having a bad attitude toward them, causing them to be embittered, exasperated, irritated by the harshness of their husbands.
 - b. The potential is natural due to the fall, the man thinks of the woman as inferior, therefore it is much easier to become bitter toward one who is perceived as inferior than one who is perceived as superior.
 - * Literally, stop being bitter!
 2. The reasons are not given, I believe because no one needs to be told that it will hurt the marriage, it is obvious.
 - a. Some of the things bitterness does to a marriage are the following.
 - 1) It cuts off communication.
 - 2) It causes verbal warfare, saying things that will be regretted later.
 - 3) It cultivates a desire to injure the other person.
 - 4) It cuts off sexual oneness as an expression of one’s love and ultimately to punish one’s mate.

- b. Some of the reasons for bitterness are as follows.
 - 1) Unforgiveness of something in the past or the present.
 - 2) Unsubmissiveness by the wife.
 - 3) Untamed and loose tongue by the wife.
 - 4) Uncontrolled discipline of the children.
 - 5) Unlovingness attention and affection by the wife.
 - 6) Unwilling to admit one's wrong.
 - 7) Unscriptural self-righteousness.
 - 8) Unbiblical use of the Scriptures to rule one's mate.
- 3. All these and others must be dealt with or they will become problematic.
 - a. Peter tells the husbands they are to dwell with wives according to knowledge or understanding for the woman is the weaker vessel, they are heir together of the grace of life and their prayer are hindered. 1Pet. 3:7
* Keep in mind the impact of Paul's commands, in view of the attitude towards women in that day, being nothing but a possession!
 - e. By the husband loving his wife he is submitting to her and by her submitting to him, she is loving him.

- 1) Paul says, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God". Eph. 5:21
 - 2) And he does this to pursue the peace of God to rule in his heart, literally to umpire. Col. 3:15
 - 3) Because the word of Christ dwells in him richly. Col. 3:16
 - 4) Because he wants to honor the person and name of Christ.
* Bitterness will strangle the love, affection and desire for one another!
- c. Paul gives the Ephesians two good councils.
 - 1) "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath". Eph. 4:26
 - 2) Paul also tells the Ephesians, "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice." Eph. 4:31

Illustration

Chrysostom writes, "Hast thou seen the measure of obedience? Hear also the measure of love. Wouldest thou that thy wife shouldst obey thee as the church doth Christ? Have care thyself for her as Christ for the Church. And if it be needful that thou shouldst give thy life for her, or be cut to

pieces a thousand times, or endure anything whatsoever, refuse it not. . ."

Application

1. Today marriage is not taken seriously but is entered into with the thought that if it doesn't work we can get divorce.
2. Today too many options are available to young couples that does not cause them to hang in and be committed.
3. Today like any other time, the most crucial period is the first five to seven years, if you will be committed, you will end up with a gem.
4. Today the world desperately needs godly marriages.

Husbands are to love their wives!

Conclusion

We have focused our attention on what the New Man is to be in the home regarding the wife and the husband by a simple three-fold division.

- I. Woman and marriage in Paul's day!
- II. Wives are to submit to their husbands!
- III. Husbands are to love their wives!

The difficulties of leaving a marriage is beautifully illustrated.

Dear Dave Tech Support Request,

Last year I up graded Girlfriend 1.0 to Wife 1.0 and noticed that the new program began

unexpected child processing that took up a lot of space and valuable resources. No mention of this phenomenon was included in the product brochure.

In addition, Wife 1.0 installs itself into all other programs that launch during system initialization and then proceeds to monitor all other system activity.

Applications such as Pokernight 10.3 and Beerbash 2.5 are no longer able to run, crashing the system whenever selected. I can not seem to purge Wife 1.0 from my system. I am thinking about going back to Girlfriend 1.0 but there seems to be no un-install option included with Wife 1.0 . In fact Wife 1.0 warns of heavy financial penalties if I attempt to go around the agreement. Can you help me? Jonathan Powell

Dear Jonathan,

This is a very common problem men complain about but is mostly due to a primary misconception. Many people upgrade from Girlfriend 1.0 to Wife 1.0 with the idea that Wife 1.0 is merely a "UTILITIES & ENTERTAINMENT" program. Wife 1.0 is actually an all powerful OPERATING SYSTEM, designed by its creator to run everything. It is impossible to un-install, delete, purge the program from the system once installed. You can not go back to Girlfriend 1.0 because Wife 1.0 is not designed to do this. Many have tried to pursue a

Girlfriend 2.0 or Wife 2.0 but end up with more problems than original system. I recommend you keep Wife 1.0 and deal with current situation. Look in your manual under Warnings -Alimony / Child Support.

Having Wife 1.0 installed myself, I might also suggest you read the entire section regarding General Protection Faults (GPFs). You must assume all responsibility for faults and problems that might occur. The best course of action is to push the apologize button immediately and then reset as soon as a lock-up occurs. System will run much smoother as long as you take all the blame for the GPFs. Wife 1.0 is a great program with a lot of nice features, but it comes with very high maintenance costs. Dave J