

JESUS' Design: The NEW Christian Family

Colossians 3:18-4:1

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

NKJV - *"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

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

4 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven."

ESP - *"Mujeres, estén sujetas a sus maridos, como conviene en el Señor. Maridos, amen a sus mujeres y no sean ásperos con ellas. Hijos, sean obedientes a sus padres en todo, porque esto es agradable al Señor. Padres, no exasperen a sus hijos, para que no se desalienten.*

Siervos, obedezcan en todo a sus amos en la tierra, no para ser vistos, como los que quieren agradar a los hombres, sino con sinceridad de corazón, temiendo al Señor.

Todo lo que hagan, háganlo de corazón, como para el Señor y no para los hombres, sabiendo que del Señor recibirán la recompensa de la herencia. Es a Cristo el Señor a quien sirven. Porque el que procede con injusticia sufrirá las consecuencias del mal que ha cometido, y eso, sin acepción de personas.

4 Amos, traten con justicia y equidad a sus siervos, sabiendo que ustedes también tienen un Señor en el cielo."

- Paul's great THEOLOGY is now working itself our very PRACTICALLY.

Your **Beliefs** ---> Your **Behavior**.

Your **Attitudes** ---> Your **Actions**.

Your **Doctrines** ---> Your **Deeds**.

Paul has been speaking on "putting off" the **OLD MAN**, and "putting on" the **NEW MAN** in chapter 3....."How should the **NEW MAN** look in the different **RELATIONSHIPS** of your life??"

My Christianity should make a difference in **my home**, in **my marriage**, in **my office**, in **my community** - 2 Cor 5:17

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

AMP - *Wives, be subject to your husbands [subordinate and adapt yourselves to them], as is right and fitting and your proper duty in the Lord.*

submit - Greek word "**hupotasso**" - military word meaning 'to stay in the proper order, follow the higher rank, and maintain the right formation'.

It speaks of the way that an army is organized

among levels of rank, with generals and colonels and majors and captains and sergeants and privates. There are levels of rank, and one is obligated to respect those in higher rank.

A wife chooses to follow her husband, because of his **POSITION/RANK** in Gods Kingdom as her husband - *not because of superiority or inferiority; liking or disliking; having greater or lesser value.*

Therefore, submission means you are part of a team. If the family is a team, then the husband is "captain" of the team. The wife has her place in relation to the "captain," and the children have their place in relation to the "captain" and the wife. It has to do with a God-appointed order.

"The form of the verb (middle voice) shows that the submission is to be voluntary. The wife's submission is never to be forced on her by a demanding husband; it is the deference that a loving wife, conscious that her home (just as any other institution) must have a head, gladly shows." -

Vaughan

2 Institutions only: *Not in Government, Education, Business, Medicine - no command for general submission of women unto men in the Bible!*

*The **Church** - 1 Tim 2:8-14; 3:1-7*

*The **Home** - 1 Tim 2:15; Eph 5:22-25; 1 Pet 3:1-6*

4 Reasons biblically in the New Testament:

*The **Creation** - 1 Tim 2:13; 1 Cor 11:8,9*

*The **Catastrophe** - 1 Tim 2:14*

*The **Creatures** - 1 Cor 11:10; 1 Pet 1:12*

*The **Command** - 1 Cor 11:3*

to your own husbands, - This defines the sphere of a wife's submission - to her own husband. The Bible never commands nor recommends a general submission of women unto men.

as is fitting in the Lord.

This is a crucial phrase. There have been two main "wrong" interpretations of this phrase, each favoring a certain "position."

The interpretation that "favors" the husband says that as is fitting in the Lord ***means that a wife should submit to her husband as if he were God himself.*** But this is wrong. In no place does the Scripture teach an unqualified, without exception, submission - except to God and God alone. To violate this is to commit the sin of idolatry.

The interpretation that "favors" the wife says that as is fitting in the Lord means ***"I'll submit to him as long as he does what the Lord wants."*** And then it is the wife's job to decide what the Lord wants. This is also wrong. Simply put, that is not submission at all. Except for those who are just plain argumentative, everyone submits to others when they are in agreement. It is only when there is a disagreement that submission is tested.

As is fitting in the Lord means, ***"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands because it is a part of your duty to the Lord, because it is***

an expression of your submission to the Lord."

They submit simply because it honors God's Word and His order of authority. It is part of their Christian duty and discipleship.

For wives, ***submission to their husband is part of their Christian life.*** When a wife doesn't obey this word to submit to your own husband as is fitting in the Lord, she doesn't just fall short as a wife. She falls short as a follower of Jesus Christ.

This means that a woman should take great care in how she chooses her husband. Remember, ladies: this is what God requires of you in marriage. This is His expectation of you. Instead of looking for an attractive man, instead of looking for a wealthy man, instead of looking for a romantic man, you better first look for a man you can respect.

As is the case in every human relationship, the command to submit is not absolute. There are exceptions to this command for a wife to submit to her own husband. When the husband asks the wife to sin, she must not submit. · When the husband is medically incapacitated, insane, or under the influence of mind altering substances, the wife may not submit. · When the husband is violent and physically threatening, the wife may not submit. · When the husband breaks the marriage bond by adultery, they wife does not need to submit to her husband being in an adulterous relationship.

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

AMP - Husbands, love your wives [be affectionate and sympathetic with them] and do not be harsh or bitter or resentful toward them.

In the ancient world - under Jewish, Greek, and Roman customs, all power and privileges belonged to husbands in regard to wives, to fathers in regard to children, and to masters in regard to slaves.

Paul's words to husbands safeguards his words to wives.

Though wives are to submit to their husbands, it never excuses husbands acting as tyrants over their wives.

WHAT should Husbands do??

love your wives - Greek "**agapao**", one of 4 different words used for "love".

*Agape love is a love that **loves without changing.***

*Agape love is a self-giving; **gives without expecting re-payment.***

*Agape love is love so great that it can be **given to the unlovable.***

*Agape love is love that **loves even when it is rejected.***

*Agape love gives and **loves because it chooses to.***

What Paul is writing to the husbands is this: "**Husband, continually practice self-denial for the sake of your wife.**"

Of course, this agape love is **the kind of love Jesus has for His people** and this is the love husbands should imitate towards their wives (Ephesians 5:25).

WHY should Husbands do it??

1. Your KING Commands it!

James 2:14-18 - " What is the use (profit), my brethren, for anyone to profess to have faith if he has no [good] works [to show for it]? Can [such] faith save [his soul]? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clad and lacks food for each day, 16 And one of you says to him, Good-bye! Keep [yourself] warm and well fed, without giving him the necessities for the body, what good does that do? 17 So also faith, if it does not have works (deeds and actions of obedience to back it up), by itself is destitute of power (inoperative, dead). 18 But someone will say [to you then], You [say you] have faith, and I have [good] works. Now you show me your [alleged] faith apart from any [good] works [if you can], and I by [good] works [of obedience] will show you my faith.

John 15

1 John 2

Matthew 7

2 Corinthians 3

2. Your WIFE Needs it!

Security Financially - Genesis 2; What \$\$ Level?

Honesty - No Dr. Jekyll.. (Exodus 20; Jn 14:6)

Affection - 1 Cor 7:3 ("good state of mind")

Real Conversation - Ephesians 5 ; Revelation 2,3

Powerful Family - Ephesians 6:4 ; Colossians 3

WHEN should husbands do it??

1. When you **WAKE UP...**
2. When you **WALK IN...**
3. When you **WANDER OUT...**

and do not be bitter toward them. - The husband may feel perfectly justified in his harsh or unloving attitude and actions towards his wife, but he is not justified - no matter how the wife has been towards the husband. Agape loves **even when there are obvious and glaring deficiencies**, even **when the receiver is unworthy of the love**.

The Bible is not a series of disconnected stories. But rather, it is one single narrative in which every page, every chapter, every major character points beyond itself to one who is greater, to the one who is the Greatest: JESUS.

The story of Adam and Eve is not just the story about the first man and woman. JESUS is the true and better Adam, who passed the test in the Garden and whose obedience is now ascribed to us, who follow Him.

JESUS is the true and better Abel, who though innocently slain, has blood that cries out, not for our condemnation, but for our redemption and forgiveness.

JESUS is the true and better Abraham, who answered the call of God, to leave all that was familiar and comfortable, and to go out into the void and create a brand new People of God.

JESUS is the true and better Isaac, the Son of Laughter and Grace, who was not just offered up by his father on a mountain, but was willingly and truly sacrificed for us all on Calvary.

JESUS is the true and better Jacob, who wrestled and took the blow of justice that we deserve, so that we, like Jacob, only receive the wounds of grace, that wake us up and discipline us.

JESUS is the true and better Joseph, who sits at the right hand of the King, forgives those who betrayed him and sold him, and who uses His new power to save them.

JESUS is the true and better Moses, who stands in the gap between the people and the Lord, and who mediates a New covenant, not based up the Law and the sacrifice of animals, but upon God's infinite grace and the His own perfect blood.

JESUS is the true and better Rock of Moses, who was struck with the rod of God's justice and wrath, but who now gives us water and life, in the desert.

JESUS is the true and better Job, the truly innocent sufferer, who then intercedes for, and finally saves his foolish friends.

JESUS is the true and better David, whose victory becomes his people's victory, though they never lifted a stone to accomplish it themselves

JESUS is the true and better Esther, who didn't just risk losing an earthly palace, but rather gave up the Heavenly one; who didn't just risk His life, but gave His life to rescue and save His people.

JESUS is the true and better Jonah, Who was cast out into the storm of God's fury, so that we could safely be brought in.

JESUS is the true and better Passover Lamb, Who is innocent, perfect, helpless, slain so that the angel of Death would pass over us.

Jesus is the true Temple; the true Prophet; the true Priest; the true King; the true Sacrifice; the true Lamb, the true Light, and the true Life.

Jesus is also the true and better Husband, who loves his Bride with perfect agape love, Who serves her sacrificially and constantly, Who washes her perfectly with His Word, beautifies her with His grace,

empowers her with His strength, and saved her with his blood. Jesus is the true and better and perfect Husband.

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

AMP - *Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.*

Children...obey your parents - Greek words "**teknon**" (children) and "**hypakouo**" (obey)

"**teknon**" - Is a child still in the care/household of their parents (regardless of age).

" **hypakouo**" - Is to respond to the knocking on the door, to listen to who it is (like a butler).

Paul has in mind children who are still in their parents' household and under their authority.

For these, they must not only honor their father and mother (as in Ephesians 6:2), but they must also obey them, and obey them in all things. When a child is grown and out of his parents' household, he is no longer under the same obligation of obedience, but the obligation to honor your father and mother remains.

in all things, - Not in only some areas, and not in others. The authority of a child's parents is to be respected and obeyed in all things, while under their care, and under their roof.

for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

*This is one of the important reasons for a child's obedience. When a child respects his parent's authority, **he is respecting God's order of authority in other areas of life.***

This idea of an order of authority and submission to an order of authority are so important to God that they are part of His very being. The First Person of the Holy Trinity is called the Father; the Second Person of the Holy Trinity is called the Son.

Inherent in those titles is a relationship of authority and submission to authority.

The Father exercises authority over the Son, and the Son submits to the Father's authority - and this is in the very nature and being of God! Our failure to exercise Biblical authority, and our failure to submit to Biblical authority, isn't just wrong and sad - it sins against the very character and nature of God Himself!!

*Remember **1 Samuel 15:23**....For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft!!*

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

AMP - *Fathers, do not provoke or irritate or fret your children [do not be hard on them or harass them], lest they become discouraged and sullen and morose and feel inferior and frustrated. [Do not break their spirit.]*

do not provoke your children,

This was truly revolutionary - fathers literally held the power of life and death over their children in Greek and Roman society.

Christian fathers have a responsibility to not provoke their children. Parents can provoke their children by being too harsh, too demanding, too controlling, unforgiving, or just plain angry. This harshness can be expressed through words, through actions, or through non-verbal communication.

In most parenting problems, the parent blames the child. It is easy to do because the problem is usually most evident in the bad behavior in the child. But Paul wisely reminds us that the bad behavior may actually be provoked by the parent. When this is the case, it doesn't justify the bad behavior of the child, but it may explain part of its cause. It is commanded to parents to do everything they can to not provoke their children.

Provoke: *"Irritate by exacting commands and perpetual*

faultfinding and interference for interference' sake."

- Peake

"Parents, and specially fathers, are urged not to irritate their children by being so unreasonable in their demands that their children lose heart and come to think that it is useless trying to please their parents."

- Bruce

"The word 'fathers' can refer to parents of both sexes, though it may well have an eye to the importance of the father's role, within God's created order, in the upbringing of children." - Wright

*lest they **become discouraged.** -*

Children who grow up with parents who provoke them will become discouraged. They will not feel the love and the support from their parents like they should, and they will come to believe that the whole world is against them because they feel their parents are against them. This reminds us how important it is to season our parenting with lots of grace. **We should be as gracious, gentle, forgiving, and longsuffering with our children as God is with us.**

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

AMP - *Whatever may be your task, work at it heartily (from the soul), as [something done] for the Lord and not for men, Knowing [with all certainty] that [The One Whom] you are actually serving [is] the Lord Christ (the Messiah). For he who deals wrongfully will [reap the fruit of his folly and] be punished for his wrongdoing.*

obey in all things your masters according to the flesh,

AMP - *"Servants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters,.."*

*"It will be noted that **this section is far longer than the other two**; and its length may well be due to long talks which Paul had with the runaway slave, Onesimus, whom later he was to send back to his master Philemon." - **Barclay***

*"**More than half the people seen on the streets of the great cities of the Roman world were slaves. And this was the status of the majority of 'professional' people such as teachers and doctors as well as that of menials and craftsmen.**" - **Vaughan***

Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God:

AMP - *"..not only when their eyes are on you as pleasers of men, but in simplicity of purpose [with all your heart] because of your reverence for the Lord and as a sincere expression of your devotion to Him."*

We are always tempted to work just as hard as we have to, thinking we only have to please man. But God wants every worker to see that ultimately, they work for Him. Therefore, they should do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men. God promises to reward those who work with that kind of heart.

The Christian who is a dishonest, lazy or unreliable worker has something far worse to deal with than a reprimand from his earthly supervisor. His heavenly supervisor may prepare a reprimand as well.

"Far more culpable is the attitude of modern 'clockwatchers,' who have contracted to serve their employer and receive an agreed remuneration for their labor. But Christian slaves - or Christian employees today - have the highest of all motives for faithful and conscientious performance of duty; they are above all else servants of Christ, and will work first and foremost so as to please him."

(Bruce)

*And whatever you do, do it **heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,***

knowing that **from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance;**

AMP - "*..it is from the Lord [and not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [real] reward.*"

"One should properly read 'the inheritance'; the reference is clearly to the life of the age to come. This is ironic, since in earthly terms slaves could not inherit property." (Wright)

For you serve the Lord Christ:

"The force of this unusual phrase (Paul nowhere else allows the titles 'Lord' and 'Christ' to stand together without the name 'Jesus' as well) could be brought out by a paraphrase: '**so work for the true Master - Christ!**'" (Wright)

But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done: When a Christian worker does poorly in his job, he should not expect special leniency from his boss, especially if his boss is a Christian. Being a Christian should make us more responsible, not less responsible.

"It is possible for an unfaithful servant to wrong and defraud his master in a great variety of ways without being detected; but let all such remember what is here said: he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he has done; God sees him, and will punish him for his breach of honesty and trust."
(Clarke)

Will be repaid . . . and there is no partiality:

AMP - "*And [with God] there is no partiality [no matter what a person's position may be, whether he is the slave or the master].*"

For ancient Christian slaves and for modern Christian workers, there is no guarantee on earth of fairness of treatment from those whom they work for. Sometimes partiality means that bad workers are unfairly rewarded and good employees are penalized or left unrewarded. Paul assures both our

ancient brethren and us that there is a final rewarding and punishment, and with this there is no partiality.

In Ephesians 6:9 Paul addressed masters and warned them that there was no partiality with God. Here, he warned servants that there is no partiality with God. "In Ephesians masters are not to think that God is influenced by social position; in the present passage, slaves are not to act unscrupulously just because they know men treat them as irresponsible chattel." (Vaughan)

*Masters, give your bondservants what is **just and fair**, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.*

- ***AMP** - MASTERS, [on your part] deal with your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that also you have a Master in heaven.*
- ***give your bondservants what is **just and fair**,***

As Christians put on the new man, they will be just and fair to those who work for them. **It is a terrible thing for a boss to cheat or mistreat his workers, but far worse for a Christian to do it.**

This is even more powerful than a command for masters to be kind or pleasant to slaves. One can be kind or pleasant to animals or pets; but **we are only just and fair to fellow human beings.** Paul asked masters to make a recognition that would undermine the very foundations of slavery.

Through the history of Christianity, there have been some who used these passages where Paul speaks to slaves and their masters to justify or even promote the practice of slavery. Others have blamed these passages for the practice of slavery. Yet one can never blame Christianity for slavery; it was a universal practice that pre-dated both Christianity and the Jewish nation. Instead, one should see that *the abolition of slavery came from Christian people and impulses, and not from*

any other major religion and certainly not from secularism.

Without making an overt protest against slavery, Paul seemed to understand that if he could establish **the point that slaves were equals in the body of Christ, full human beings with both responsibilities and rights** (that they should be treated in a manner both just and fair), then in time the whole structure of slavery in the Roman Empire would crumble - and it did.

- knowing that **you also have a Master in heaven.**

Every Christian master would do well to remind themselves that they themselves are slaves to their Master: Christ. Paul is here reminding them to treat their servants as they would like for their Heavenly Master to treat them.

- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

As a **WIFE**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing willing submission and respect to your husband?

As a **HUSBAND**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing sacrificial and self-giving agape love to your wife?

As a **CHILD**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing willing obedience and honor to your parents in all things?

As a **FATHER**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing gentleness and encouragement to your children?

As a **SERVANT-EMPLOYEE**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing diligence, hardwork, and honesty to your employer?

- As an **EMPLOYEE**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing fair treatment and compensation to your employees?