

“LIVING & LOVING!” Colossians Chapter 3:18-19

I) WIVES LIVE THE GOOD LIFE!

(v18) *“Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”* What is the meaning of “submit?” The context of a submissive life flows out of the context of verses 1-17 (let’s read it again); God’s Word yields a holy heart, which produces a happy home.

LADIES FIRST: What is the opposite of submission? CONTENTION - "It is better to live in a corner of a roof, than in a house shared with a *contentious woman*." (Proverbs 21:9); "It is better to live in a desert land, than with a *contentious and vexing woman*." (Proverbs 21:19); "A constant dripping on a day of steady rain and a *contentious woman* are alike. He who would restrain her restrains the wind, and grasps oil with his right hand." (Proverbs 27:15); "The *woman of folly* is boisterous. She is *naïve*, and knows nothing." (Proverbs 9:13); "So is a beautiful woman *who lacks discretion*." (Proverbs 11:22)

➤ LADIES LET’S SIMPLIFY (S – U – B - MISSION):

S – SUITABLE HELPER - Wives are created by God to be a “suitable helper” for their husbands, that is to be willing to yield to your husbands leadership *as is fitting in the Lord*. Remember how you were created- Gen 2:18; 2:22- *The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. Key point: A suitable helper- Ladies, how can you help your husband? Notice it says as is fitting in the Lord- Bless your husband as you would bless the Lord!*

U – UNDERSTAND your goals and your role in the marriage relationship - Proverbs 31:25-30- *Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all." Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.*

B – BUILD DON’T BATTLE – 1 Peter 3:1-6 – (v1a) *Be submissive* – (complete don’t compete); (v1b) *Without a word* (communication through love); (v2) *Loving conduct* (with reverence, that is respect (Ephesians 5:33)); (v3-4a) *Hidden person of the heart* (compassion not criticism); (v4b) *Gentle & quiet spirit* (Caring); (v5-6) *Calling him lord?* (In other words be complimentary.)

➤ Ladies this is your MISSION in the realm of submission!

II) HUSBANDS LOVE YOUR WIFE!

(v19a) **GENTLEMEN** - Let’s define LOVE biblically- *Your marriage is to be a covenant before the Lord to a lifetime of companionship and mutual help with your spouse (Prov. 2:17; Malachi 2:14; Mark 10:7-9). Your love for your spouse is not be based on your emotions, circumstances, or your spouse’s responses (Mt. 5:43-44; John 13. 3-35; Gal. 5:16-17). Instead, you are to love your spouse in obedience to the Lord (Jn. 14:15) and in response to His love for you (1 Jn. 4:10-11). Remember that God does not command you to feel like loving. Instead, He directs you to think, speak, and act in a loving manner (1Jn. 3:23) even when your spouse: (1) Chooses to have only casual contact with you, much like your neighbor (Mt. 22:39); (2) Currently acts like your enemy (Mt. 5:44; Lk. 6:27,35); or (3) Is a believer (Jn. 13:34; Heb. 13:1; 1 Peter 4:8; 1Jn. 4:7-8) or an unbeliever (1 Cor. 7:12-16; Eph 5:25,28; Titus 2:3-5). You can show love toward your spouse in spite of any fears that you may have (Philippians 4:13; 1 Jn. 5:4), since God’s abiding and perfect love casts out all fear (1Jn. 4:12, 18). You are not being a hypocrite by loving your spouse even if you do not feel like it (Ro. 12:9). To love when you do not feel like it is simply a matter of faithful obedience (Jn. 14:15) and is a response to God’s love for you (1 Jn. 4:10-11,19). (Note: It is not hypocritical to do things that you don’t feel like doing. You are a hypocrite only when you do things that you don’t feel like doing and say that you enjoy doing them.) (From *Self-Confrontation Manual*- by the Biblical Counseling Center)*

➤ HUSBAND’S HELPFUL LOVE HINTS:

HINT #1 – HELP! – Ask your wife what she needs help with; have a weekly planning session – teamwork!

HINT #2 – BE THERE! – Spend time together, doing things together, date your wife (dinner, movie, beach, weekend get-away, etc.)

HINT #3 – COMMUNICATE! - Dialogue – listen, learn and lavish her with compliments not complaints.

HINT #4 – BE AFFECTIONATE! - Touch, caress, kiss, hug, flowers, candy, be romantic!

HINT #5 – BE CONCERNED! – About opinions, feelings, interests, desires, likes, dislikes, etc.

HINT #6 – BE FAITHFUL! – Be loyal, protective, trustworthy, supportive, unselfish, responsible, keeping confidences, fulfilling promises and commitments.

HINT #7 – PROVIDE – Meeting material and physical needs, taking care of possessions, giving gifts, giving birthday or anniversary cards, trading places, doing fix-it jobs, etc.

(v19b) Gentlemen we must guard our hearts against BITTERNESS! In the New Testament, the "gall of bitterness" (Acts 8:23, KJV) describes a spiritual poisoning—a heart of great wickedness—in Simon the sorcerer. A "root of bitterness" (Hebrews 12:15) is a wicked person or a sin that leads to denial of the faith. Husbands must not become bitter; husbands must become BETTER through CHRIST! (1 Peter 1:18-25)

➤ **BE A CHRISTIAN HUSBAND (seven keys):**

Key #1 – Be a SERVANT LEADER – Matthew 23:11-12 - *But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*

Key #2 – Be a DISCIPLE – Luke 14:25-33 (The word *disciple* (a student, learner, or pupil) was the most common name for the followers of Jesus Christ and is used 264 times in the Gospels and the Book of Acts. Insight: The word *hate* actually means "to love less".)

Key #3 – Be a HOME BUILDER – Matthew 7:24-27 - *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." A Christian husband will build his foundation for his home like the early church in Acts 2:42 - And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine (study the Word of God) and fellowship (church attendance and involvement), in the breaking of bread (examination and proclamation), and in prayers (intercession, provision, salvation).*

Key #4 – Be LOVING - 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 - *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.*

Key #5 – Be UNDERSTANDING – 1 Peter 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.*

Key #6 – Be a PEACEMAKER – Philippians 4:8-9 - *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.*

Key #7 – Be a LIVING SACRIFICE - Romans 12:1-2 - *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

➤ Husbands are not to be dictators or spectators in the marriage relationship. Gentlemen, we are called to be **SERVANT leaders and to love SACRIFICIALLY** emulating the example of our Lord and Savior JESUS CHRIST. Ladies and gentlemen start your engines and let's ***GO FOR GOD!***