

**“HUSBANDS, WIVES, CHILDREN – SUBMIT!”**  
**COLOSSIANS 3:18-21**

- I. The Front Line of Putting Off and Putting On: Home!
  - A. Because **who we are at home is who we are at heart**, no other setting better tests whether or not we are putting off the old and putting on the new than the home.
  - B. Living out the God-ordained structure of the home begins with mutual family submission to God’s design (Eph. 5:17-21 cf. Col. 3:16, 17).
    1. Husbands. The call to wives to submit to their husband’s headship means that men are called to exercise headship over the wife. This headship derives its meaning from the headship of Christ over the church. (3:18; cf. Eph. 5:22-24). As such, the husband’s headship over his wife is to be:
      - a. Self-sacrificing (Eph. 5:25)
      - b. Loving (3:19; Eph. 5:28)
      - c. Nurturing (Eph. 5:29)
      - d. Honoring (Eph. 5:29; 1 Peter 3:7)
    2. Wives. The Christian wife’s submission to her husband is the appropriate response to God’s design for the marriage relationship (3:18; cf. Genesis 2:18-25). This submission is to be
      - a. Out of obedience to Christ (3:18; Eph. 5:22)
      - b. Patterned after the submission of the Church to Christ (Eph. 5:23)
        - 1.) Comprehensive and not selective (Eph. 5:24)  
*The submission of the church to Christ is a submission to his Lordship, which is over all things.*
        - 2.) Respectful (Eph. 5:33).  
*If the wife’s submission is analogous to the church’s submission to Christ, then it is to include the attitude as well as the action; any “submission” which maintains resentment, lack of contentment, anger, etc. is hardly submission. It is rebellion!*
    3. Children likewise are to be in submission to their parents (3:20;

Eph. 6:1-4; Exodus 20:12).

*Remember here that what we are talking about is his “putting off” the old nature and “putting on” Christ; what is important is this command is really answering the question, “What is the primary way that children may serve the Lord Jesus?” The answer: “By obeying their parents in everything.”*

- a. “Honor” implies reverence, respect and willing obedience.  
*The idea of honoring one’s parents...*
  - b. Under the Old Covenant disobedience to parents was punishable by death (Lev. 20:9; Deut. 21:18-21).
  - c. Under the New Covenant disobedience is listed as a sin deserving God’s wrath (Romans 1:30).
  - d. Parents are to exercise discipline as a demonstration of love and out of a desire to see their children mature into godly adults (Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13, 14).
  - e. Parents must recognize the difference between provocation and discipline (Col. 3:20; Eph. 6:4).
- The WLC devotes eleven questions (WLC 123-133) to the fifth command, which enjoins us to honor our father and mother. Here is a link: <https://opc.org/lc.html>
  - John Piper article <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/parents-require-obedience-of-your-children>