



Focus

Col. 3:18-19: Dynamic Duo: Love and Submission Pastor Jerome Gay Jr.

Announcements

- One service on 12.24.16 at 10am (No service on Christmas day)
- Giving towards our repairs is still needed.
- Volunteer of the Year award [\(show pics\)](#)

What's your favorite dynamic duo? I'm sure many of us have several:

- **Superheroes:** Batman and Robin
- **Music:** Dr. Dre and Snoop, Outcast: Andre 3000 and Big Boi, Pete Rock and CL Smooth, Kid and Play and Salt and Peppa
- **Games:** Mario and Luigi
- **Sports:** Kobe and Shaq, Michael Jordan and Scottie Pipen
- **Entertainment:** Luscious and Cookie

These are great dynamic duos. Paul is going to give us a dynamic duo that is essential for a healthy, thriving,

intimate joy-filled marriage and that duo is submission and love.

Colossians 3:18-19

¹⁸Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.¹⁹Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

“Both men and women today see marriage not as a way of **creating character and community** but as a way to reach personal life goals. They are looking for a marriage partner who will 'fulfill their emotional, sexual, and spiritual desires.' And that creates an extreme idealism that in turn leads to a deep pessimism that you will ever find the right person to marry.” – **Tim Keller The Meaning of Marriage**

Paul has made a transition in the text to earthly relationships and he does this to show us how we can know if we've “put on” compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, etc. In other words, **Paul has talked to us about seeking things that are above (Col. 3:1), setting our minds on things that are above (Col. 3:2), putting to death mindsets and attitudes that contradict our faith (Col. 3:5) and being motivated by the Gospel is everything we do (Col. 3:17).** The true test of our faith will always be how we treat people because living out our faith to others is what gives our faith credibility to the outside world, glorifies God and builds us up in our faith. **This is why Jesus' first sermon is more about relationships than rules, he tells us to be “salt and light,” (Matt. 5:13-16) and to “love our enemies,” (Matt. 5:43-48).** Why? **Growth takes place in Christ and growth with others takes place in relationships.** In this section Paul gives us several relationships in which the new self

should be seen. **Husbands and wives** (Col. 3:18-19), **parents and children** (Col. 3:20-21) and **slaves and masters** (Col. 3:22-25). Today we'll focus on husbands and wives. **Paul's point is the new self, with its new outfit, creates new relationships.** When you and I are clothed with Christ and the attributes that He shares with us, we're empowered to see and approach our relationships differently. **Whether your marriage is thriving or barely surviving** if you approach it through the lens of the Gospel you will experience the fruit of that in your life even if the other person doesn't change immediately; people rarely change when we want them to, which is why patience was mentioned in the list of items to "put on." **Paul mentions two things that are essential for a healthy, thriving and joyous marriage; submission and love.** The problem is we see these as mutually exclusive, but they actually work in tandem. Understanding this is crucial because if you don't you'll fight with each other instead of fighting together and for each other. I want to show you guys a picture that Crystal and I have had for 17-years. **(show pic)** It's a picture of Crystal and I wearing the armor of God. It was drawn by a guy I led to Christ in college (Asian Wade). This is a gift that we will always cherish and it means a lot to us. When Crystal and I counsel couples, we show it to them for several reasons:

1. **Marriage is Transformative** - it's supposed to change you, **for the better.** **The primary goal of every marriage is that you resemble God.**
2. **Marriage requires constant Sacrifice** - you'll be required to give more than you think you have **(empty cup)**. You'll be required to give parts of yourself that you don't want to give and it's in that

moment that you must choose to love when you don't feel it.

3. **Marriage involves Intentional Intimacy** - since you have decided to spend the rest of your life with someone else, remember that love should be shown and not assumed.
4. **Marriage is Warfare** - you and your spouse are supposed to fight against the real enemy; forces of darkness (Eph. 6:12). The enemy isn't your spouse although at times you will feel like they are. **Notice how Crystal and I are holding the sword together.** **(show pic)** Love and submission are spiritual weapons to fight for each other, NOT manipulative tactics to use against each other. As I've counseled couples over the years I've noticed that many couples don't take spiritual warfare seriously. They think that they can coast through their marriage or that money, sex and vacations will sustain them. They soon find themselves wondering how could the person that they once felt like they couldn't live without, is now a person that they can't stand, but that's not our hope or belief for the marriages here at Vision. **We want your spiritual, emotional, physical and financial intimacy thriving, which is why you must understand God's intent for submission and loving authority.**

Colossians 3:18

¹⁸ Wives, submit to your husbands, as is **fitting in the Lord.**

Paul addresses the ladies first and he tells them to submit to their husbands, but he doesn't just say wives submit, period. He says to submit as is "fitting in the Lord." What

does that mean? Before we go to the what of submission, it's important to understand the why. The phrase "in the Lord," deals with the woman of God's perspective on submission. In other words, this isn't about the husband exclusively, but rather **it's an act of worship to God. It isn't based on his worthiness.** If you approach submission from a purely practical perspective there's no way for it to be enjoyable or willful, because you'll only see it as oppressive and marginalizing, but if you view it as an act of worship you'll realize it's really not about your earthly husband, but it's about your eternal one. Submission is strength under God's rule. **Jesus submitted to death on a cross** (Phil. 2:8), so submission isn't for the weak, nor is it weak. This is why Paul says to the church at Ephesus that the wife is to submit in the same manner that the church submits to Christ (Eph. 5:24). Ladies there are four things that you need to understand about submission in order to grow spiritually and to strengthen your marriage.

Submission does not mean...

- That you don't have a voice.
- That you're to be a doormat.

Submission

- **Submission should be willful** – Paul uses an interesting Greek word here for submit. **The word he uses is *hupotasso* and it means to subject oneself. It means that you willingly submit, not under compulsion.** This term was used again in Luke 10:17, 20 and Romans 8:7, 13:1 and 5. In each case it involves choosing to submit and not submission that's forced or unwanted.

- **Submission should be personal** – Paul isn't talking about general submission to every male. This is why Paul established an emphasis on relationships in the previous verses, because general submission could be extremely dangerous because **God doesn't call women to submit to everyone and everything.** When you understand this ladies, you'll choose better and wiser. **You're not called to submit to a boyfriend or fiancé or to someone you almost married.** The R&B theologian Brandy said, "almost doesn't count." **Men you don't get to preview her submissiveness by her submitting to you prior to marriage, you're supposed to observe her submission to Christ, NOT YOU!**
- **Submission should be specific** – a wife is called to submit to **her husband**. Paul made this clear in **Ephesians 5:22** where he says, **Wives, submit to your own husbands**, as to the Lord. Men don't want to hear the influence of another man in their home. While forms of submission are applicable outside of the home, Paul is stressing the reality that submission communicates love for God and respect for your man. I say this all the time; **respect is to men what security is to women.** The same way that you want to be seen, heard and valued, all three are wrapped up in one word for men, respect. How? Submitting to a "good idea," when you feel like you have a great one. Not questioning him to show off your intellect.
- **Submission is mutual** – **Ephesians 5:21** addresses mutual submission amongst all believers within in the church. This doesn't mean that there isn't still a biblical order of authority, but it does mean that

there are times that the husband should willingly defer to his wife's wisdom.

- **Submission should be joyous** – this takes place when there's real intimacy. This will lead us to what Paul instruct the husband to do for the wife. A husband that displays loving authority empowers a wife to joyfully submit to a loving leader.

Col. 3:19

¹⁹Husbands, **love your wives**, and do not be harsh with them.

Loving her isn't based on her attitude or worthiness it's an act of worship to God.

Love

- **Love must be intentional** – your love should NOT be assumed, but it must be displayed. **Prov. 18:22** says, **He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.** The idea is that you've been searching and you've found what you've been looking for and God calls you to treat her like it. God upgraded you when he blessed you with your wife. **The bible never says that a woman obtained favor when she married you.** God has given you "favor" in your wife. **(Moses and Zipporah Exo. 4:24-26)**
- **Love her by leading her** – leading isn't deferring everything in order that you won't fail. Leading works through failure, admits it and asks for her input because God has given you wisdom in your wife.

- **Love her by washing her** – Paul said in Ephesians 5 that husbands are to wash their wives with the water of the word (Eph. 5:26). Not spending time in the word with your wife is leaving her dirty. Men, if you have time to wash your body, wash your car, watch the game, play games, surely you have time to wash your wife. Washing in context is instruction and correction rooted in love. **Men don't be afraid to lovingly confront her because of your wants (juice).**
- **Love her by listening to her** – it's hard to submit to someone who doesn't listen to you. Listening is determined by your response not your nod.
- **Love her by encouraging her** – a lot of men would prefer to show more than they say, but she need to hear that you value her and that you notice her efforts. Be intentional about encouragement **(toast).**

When Paul says not to be harsh it carries the idea of being embittered. When we don't actively work at joyful submission and loving authority we allow the real enemy in and you'll turn on your spouse.

5 Ways to Avoid the Basement of Bitterness

1. Mistaking function for health. **A routine isn't a relationship.**
2. Extending grace to others, but not your spouse. Christian couples are notorious for being pleasant at church and livid at home. **(early ministry years)**
3. Mistaking her honesty as a personal attack. Tone matters
4. Mistaking physical intimacy for emotional oneness.

5. Refusing to set healthy boundaries with your in-laws. In-laws can get in the way if you let them.

(head of the table)

(God's eraser - dry erase board)