

Christ & Personal Relationships (lesson #14)

Colossians 3:18 – 4:1

Col 3:18-25 – **Wives**, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives & do not be bitter toward them. 20 **Children**, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. 21 **Fathers**, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. 22 **Bondservants**, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord & not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, & there is no partiality. 4:1 – **Masters**, give your bondservants what is just & fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

1. What does it mean for wives to “submit” to their husbands “as is fitting in the Lord” (3:18; cf. Eph 5:22-24, 33)?

“Submit” – hupotasso (hoop-ot-as'-so); to arrange under, to subordinate; to subject (Thayer) – to subordinate; reflexively, **to obey**: (Strong's)

“It is fit” – aneko (an-ay'-ko); to attain to, i.e. (figuratively) **be proper** [good, correct, appropriate, suitable, right, fitting] (Strong's)

Eph 5:22-24 – Wives, submit to your own husbands, **as to the Lord**. 23 **For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church**; & He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, **so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything**.

Eph 5:33 – Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, & let **the wife see that she respects her husband**.

“Respects” – phobeo (fob-eh'-o); to reverence, venerate, **to treat with deference or reverential obedience** (**Mark 6:20**) (Thayer); to frighten, i.e. (passively) to be alarmed; by analogy, to be in awe of, i.e. revere: (Strong's)

How might this command become more difficult when she enters the workplace?

- a. Should a Christian wife “submit” to her husband who has NOT submitted to Christ (1 Pet 3:1-6)?

1 Peter 3:1-6 – Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that ***even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives***, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward -- arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel -- 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle & quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good & are not afraid with any terror.

- b. What if her submission does not accomplished the desired effect (Rom 7:2)?

Rom 7:2 – For ***the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives***. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband.

2. How should a husband express love for his wife (3:19; Eph 5:25, 28, 31, 33)?

Col 3:19 – Husbands, ***love your wives*** & do not be bitter toward them.

Answer below:

Eph 5:25 – Husbands, love your wives, ***just as Christ also loved the church & gave Himself for her***,

Eph 5:28 – So ***husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies***; he who loves his wife loves himself.

Eph 5:31 – For this reason a man shall ***leave his father & mother & be joined to his wife***, & the two shall become one flesh.

Eph 5:33 – Nevertheless ***let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself***, & let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- a. What does it mean to be “bitter”, & how would bitterness interfere with a proper relationship?

“Bitter” – pikrainoo: to be angry, indignant, resentful, annoyed.

1 Pet 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.*

3. How should children respond to their parents (3:20; cf. Eph 6:1-3)?

Col 3:20 – Children, *obey your parents in all things* [same word as used in reference to the wife’s subjection to her husband (Eph 5:24)] for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

Eph 6:1-3 – Children, *obey your parents in the Lord*, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: 3 “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

- a. Why should children respond to their parents in this manner?

“For this is well pleasing to the Lord” – “For this is right”

AND ALSO, obeying one’s parents carries with it a two-fold promise:

- b. Does a child’s age or whether or not he is living with his parents alter this command?

No. But the obedience of the child to his parents pertains to the child’s responsibilities to the Lord, not to every subjective matter in life.

- c. When would a child have the lawful right to refuse to obey his parents?

When he has been asked to follow a course of action that is not in harmony with the teaching of Christ. Such a request would not be “in the Lord”

4. How might a father “provoke” his child (3:21; cf. Eph 6:4)?

Col 3:21 – Fathers, do not *provoke* [arouse the anger in] your children, lest they become discouraged.

Eph 6:4 – And you, fathers, *do not provoke your children to wrath*, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Excessively demanding
Teasing or Bullying
Allow no exercise of free will
Ignoring or avoiding
Anger excites anger

- a. What may result from such provocation?

Such actions on the part of parents can “take the wind out of their sails.”

- b. How can this be avoided (see Eph 6:4)?

Eph 6:4 – And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but *bring them up in the training* [discipline] *and admonition* [instruction] *of the Lord*.

5. Do the instructions given to “bondservants” serve a practical use for us today (3:22-25; Eph 6:5-8)?

“Bondservants” – doulos (doo'-los); a slave (literal or figurative, involuntary or voluntary; **therefore in a qualified sense of subjection or subserviency**): (Strong's)

a. Compare the passages in Colossians & Ephesians for similarities & also for instructions given in one that are not in the other.

Col 3:22-25 – **Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.**

Eph 6:5-8 – **Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.**

6. Who are our Masters in a free society (4:1; cf. Eph 6:9)?

Anyone to whom we are in subjection, whether by choice or by force

a. Again, compare the passages in Colossians & Ephesians.

Col 4:1 – Masters, **give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. Eph 6:9** – And you, masters, **do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven**, and there is no partiality with Him.