

## Wives and Their Very Own Husbands Colossians 3:18-19

INTRO: As we see the scriptures unfold before us in Colossians, we find that this is a very exciting section of the Bible (3:18-4:1). At Colossians 3:18, a new paragraph begins. Paul has been hammering home a very theological truth: Christ is the only and all sufficient Savior! Now, this truth is applied to household groups. Before us, we find a “table of household duties,” sometimes called a “house table.” In this table, we have:

1. Wives and their own husbands (3:18-19).
2. Children and their dads (3:20-21).
3. Servants and their masters (3:32-4:1).

In this study, we are going to deal with the first section of this table—wives and their own husbands (3:18-19).

In Christianity, we find the power and purpose for a godly marriage:

1. Christianity supplies the power for successful marriage. The world has its philosophies and books about marriage, but “the very best of them, are trains lacking engines” (Hendriksen 167). The power for marriage is the grace and supply of God (Phil 4:13, 19).
2. Christianity gives the purpose for a godly marriage. We are to “do all to the glory of God” (I Cor 10:31). Our marriages are to honor the principles of God’s Word.

### I. VS 18, A WORD TO THE WIVES

- A. The Bible clearly, plainly teaches that wives are to submit to their own husbands! Feminists see the word “obey” as being wicked and out of date. They want to do away with submission in marriage. No matter what they say, Colossians 3:18 is still in the book.
- B. “Wives” has the definite article with it in the Greek which links all wives together. “It is a comprehensive statement, indicating the responsibility is one which is for all wives” (Summers 120).
- C. “Submit yourselves unto your own husbands.” This is a Bible principle found throughout the scripture.
  1. God has set in the home an order, His order. This is found in I Cor 11:3.
    - a. Submission is not inferiority. It has to do with rank, with God’s chain of command. A Captain is no better than a private. The Captain has rank and is not to

- abuse it.
  - b. In the marriage relationship, one is not inferior and the other superior. The man and the woman are not inferior one to the other, but both do not have the same position in God's plan (Gal 3:28).
  - c. The Greek word for submit is *hupotasso*, and it means "to line up under as troops do under a commander."
- 2. Submission is God's plan for a happy home. Submission is not domination; the man dominating the wife. It is getting under the umbrella of God's protection. To get out from under the umbrella puts you out where the fiery darts of Satan can destroy you.
- 3. Wives who have trouble submitting to their husbands also have trouble submitting to the Lord Jesus Christ. Warren Wiersbe said: "When a Christian wife submits herself to Christ, and lets him be the Lord of her life, she will have no difficulty submitting to her husband" (142).
- 4. Order in the Christian home is needed; it is a must. One must be the head. There must be order.
  - a. No head means death.
  - b. Two heads are a monstrosity.
- 5. Order is important to God the Father and to God the Son. God the Son is not inferior to God the Father, yet the Bible says, "...the head of Christ is God" (I Cor 11:3).
  - a. God the Father and God the Son are co-equal (Phil 2:6-8).
  - b. God the Father and God the Son are co-eternal (Jn 1:1-2).
- 6. The woman is not inferior to the man, yet the scripture says, "The head of every man is Christ: and the head of the woman is the man" (I Cor 11:3b).
- 7. The Devil is doing all that he can to destroy the home. He hates God's plan and God's design for man and woman in marriage.
  - a. He tries to make the man and the woman the same, and they are not the same, and I am glad. You ladies are much better looking than these hairy legged men.
  - b. Satan is telling women: "If you submit then you are inferior and not equal!" That is not so. The woman is

not inferior. Again note Gal 3:28. Men and women are equal, but not the same. Adrian Rogers said: "Resist with all your heart these he women and she men." The Devil wants to destroy the difference between men and women.

8. The man is responsible for the home, but he can assign authority to the wife for certain activities in the home. The man carries the burden of the home. He is responsible.
  - a. As it is in the game of football, someone has to call the lays. It does not mean that the quarterback is better; it just means it is his responsibility to call the plays.
  - b. Husbands are not better than wives; they jut have the responsibility to call the plays.

## II. VS 19, A WORD TO THE HUSBANDS

- A. Husbands are to love their wives. How are husbands to love their wives? The answer is found in Eph 5:25 where Paul says: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." Just as God loves Israel and claims her as His wife (Isa 62:5, "as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall God rejoice over thee.") Just as Christ "loved the church and gave Himself for it," so ought men to love their wives.
  1. In spite of the failings of the true church, Christ has continued to love her.
  2. There are no perfect wives. Men are to love their wives in spite of their failings.
- B. The kind of love a husband is to have for his wife:
  1. The word used for love here is *agapate*. It is in the present tense indicating continuous action— keep on loving throughout marriage.
  2. This love is a willing love, not the love of passion or emotion; but the love of choice— a covenant kind of love.
  3. This is self-sacrificing kind of love. Willing love, covenant love is self-sacrificing.
  4. "The love of a husband for his wife is sexual, to be sure, but also rises above the sexual. It is natural affection, but it is also far more than that. It is the love for one's wife as 'a sister in the Lord.' This love acts as a moderating influence upon the husband's exercise of authority" (Hendriksen 170).

5. It is a communicating love. The final decision rests with the husband, but he is to leave room for mutual deliberation and gentle persuasion.
    - a. At times, the husband's tentative conclusions will prevail; at other times, the wife's – the husband coming to see she was right.
    - b. Communication in marriage is essential.
  6. This love sees the wife as a best friend and life partner. This is the kind of love Isaac had for Rebekah (Gen 24:67).
  7. This love is considerate, not harsh and cross.
  8. This love honors the wife, caring for her (I Pet 3:7).
  9. This love seeks to please (I Cor 7:3-4, 33-34).
  10. This love seeks to protect.
- C. "Be not bitter against them." A. T. Robertson translates the Greek word "bitter" as meaning, "stop being bitter" or "do not have the habit of being bitter." It refers to something bitter in taste. Jesus Christ is the head of the church, but He never makes us do anything. He does not make us give, pray, witness, or sing. As the head of the church, He loves us and leads us in love. Now some Christians do not love Him enough to do the things He asks us to do. Some wives do not care enough to do the things that their husbands lovingly ask, but as Christ goes on loving the church, the husband is to go loving his wife.
1. Don't call your wife "honey" then act like vinegar.
  2. Do not harbor resentment. Forgive and forget. Don't be mean and harsh.
  3. Do not irritate, annoy, aggravate, or anger your wife.

**CONCLUSION:** God's plan is the only plan for true success in marriage – FOLLOW IT!!

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