

**"Christian living in the home"****Part 2****Colossians 3:18-21**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Colossians we stepped into the verses which deal with Christian living in the home. In these verses Paul addressed the role of the wife, the husband, and the children in the family. This is a passage that is not well accepted in our day by much of society because it deals with the submissiveness of the wife to her husband. I want to do a brief review on what we considered last week then we will continue.

➤ **Words for the wife**

**Notice Colossians 3:18**

This is a verse that will cause much contention in a circle of worldly people and the reason is because they do not understand the Authority of the Scriptures nor do they understand the meaning of "submitting." The command to be submissive is repeated 3 times in the Scriptures. It is here in Colossians 3 and in two other places.

**Ephesians 5:22**

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

**1 Peter 3:1**

*Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;*

The fact that it is repeated 3 times tells us just how important this is. Last week I told you that this has nothing to do with the value of the wife. This is a command for the wife to accept her place under the headship of her husband. God has made the husband to be the head of the family and when the Bible calls upon the woman to submit it is calling upon her to accept the hierarchy that God has established within the family and support her husband as the spiritual leader. The unsaved world does not understand this and because of sin the unsaved woman desires to have authority over her husband.

**Genesis 3:16**

<sup>16</sup> *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

This does not mean the husband is a dictator over his wife but it means that he is to exercise loving leadership.

**Ephesians 5:22-24**

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*

<sup>23</sup> *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.*

<sup>24</sup> *Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*

**Notice Colossians 3:18 again.**

The phrase, "as it is fit in the Lord" speaks of the motivation for the wife to be submissive.

This is the order which God has established for the family and when it is followed it is then that the woman will find fulfillment for her life. Following the Word of God in the family brings about spiritual growth and peace.

➤ **Words for the husband**

**Notice Colossians 3:19**

Husbands are commanded to love their wives and to be not bitter. Last week we looked at some history from the first century and we learned that women had little value in the eyes of society. In Jesus day He corrected the teaching of the religious leaders that said a man could divorce his wife for any reason so long as he gave her a writing of divorcement.

**Matthew 5:31-32**

<sup>31</sup> *It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:*

<sup>32</sup> *But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.*

When Christianity entered, the treatment of women changed. Men were commanded to love their wives with a sacrificial love just as Jesus loved the church.

**Ephesians 5:25**

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

➤ **Words for the children**

**Notice Colossians 3:20**

Paul has in mind here children who are still under the authority of the parents in the home. Once a child is on their own or married, they are no longer under the authority of their parents. They still must respect their parents but they are then expected to rule their own families.

**Exodus 20:12**

<sup>12</sup> *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

I know this is the Law and we are not under the Law but the same principle is taught to the church in the New Testament.

**Ephesians 6:1-2**

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*

<sup>2</sup> *Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;*

Notice now what our God says about the husband and wife once they are married.

**Genesis 2:21-25**

<sup>21</sup> *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;*

<sup>22</sup> *And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*

<sup>23</sup> *And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*

<sup>24</sup> *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

<sup>25</sup> *And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

I wanted to point out that when a man and woman enter into marriage, they become one flesh and they become a new family. They are not then controlled by their parents. There are many mothers today who need to hear this because they refuse to surrender their daughter or son to their spouse. They still want to have control and this then causes a great deal of problems. When God made Eve, He gave her to Adam and they became one flesh. This is what happens when a couple is married. The man leaves the authority of his parents and the woman leaves the authority of her parents. He becomes the head of the new family and she then is to submit to his spiritual leadership.

**Notice Colossians 3:20 again.**

Children are to obey their parents in all things. There are two points I want to make here.

1. **This requires parents that are very involved with their children.**

## **2 Timothy 3:1-2**

*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*

<sup>2</sup> *For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*

This is truly a description of the days in which we are living. We see the fulfillment of these verses all around us. Children today, for the most part have little respect for their parents. In many families it is the children who run the house. Because of where we are on God's prophetic calendar those who are parents **MUST** sacrifice to be involved in the lives of their children.

2. **The Spirit of God presupposes here that the parents lead in Godly wisdom.**

Let me show you what God told the people of Israel before they came into Canaan.

## **Deuteronomy 6:4-11**

<sup>4</sup> *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:*

<sup>5</sup> *And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

<sup>6</sup> *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:*

<sup>7</sup> And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

<sup>8</sup> And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

<sup>9</sup> And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

<sup>10</sup> And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not,

<sup>11</sup> And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;

#### **Ephesians 6:4**

<sup>4</sup> And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

#### **Proverbs 1:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

<sup>9</sup> For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

When children are taught the wisdom of God and they walk in obedience this is pleasing to the Lord because it is a testimony to the unsaved world of the order that God has set forth in the family. The father submits to God, the wife submits to her husband, and the children submit to the parents.

#### **➤ Words for the fathers**

#### **Notice Colossians 3:21**

Fathers must be very careful not to provoke their children to anger. I suppose in the midst of this it is important to remember that they are children and they are not perfect but they are still learning. Many children have grown up very discouraged because of the expectations of the parents. Notice the words of Eadie on this verse.

*"Fathers are spoken to since training is their duty, and because this peculiar sin which the apostle condemns is one to which they, and not mothers, are peculiarly liable. The paternal government must be one of kindness, without change; and of fairness, without favoritism."*

How can a child be provoked to anger? Notice the list below from MacArthur.

(1) **Overprotection**--never allowing them any liberty, strict rules about everything. They do not trust their kids and the child despairs and can lead to rebellion. Parents must communicate that they trust.

(2) **By showing favoritism**, often unwittingly.

(3) **By depreciating their worth**. Many children are convinced that what they do and feel is not important. One way to decrease worth is by not LISTENING. These children may give up trying to communicate and become discouraged, shy, and withdrawn.

(4) **By setting unrealistic goals**--by never rewarding them. Nothing is enough so they never get full approval. Are you trying to make them into a person they are NOT? Some kids become so frustrated that they commit suicide.

(5) **By failing to show affection** (verbally & physically).

(6) **By not providing for their legitimate needs**.

(7) **By lack of standards** (the opposite of overprotection). These children are left to their own. They cannot handle that freedom and begin to feel insecure & unloved.

(8) **By destructive criticism**. "A child learns what he lives. If he lives with criticism, he does not learn responsibility. He learns to condemn himself and to find fault with others. He learns to doubt his own judgment, to disparage his own ability, and to distrust the intentions of others. And above all, he learns to live with continual expectation of impending doom." Parents should seek to create in the home a positive, constructive environment.

(9) **By neglect**. David was indifferent to Absalom (and he failed to discipline Adonijah who was put to death by his younger brother Solomon for probable treason).

(10) **By excessive discipline**. Never discipline in anger.

#### **Conclusion:**

When we look at these 4 verses in Colossians, we can see that being a family that is pleasing to the Lord requires much work, wisdom, and sacrifice.