

There's No Place Like Home

Colossians 3:18 – 4:1 – August 15, 2010

➤ Concerning Wives - Colossians 3:18

“*be subject to*” = (hupotasso)

God has designed _____ in the home.

Things to understand

1. The wife's role has nothing to do with _____.

I Peter 3:7

Galatians 3:28

2. Wives are to submit _____.

John 10:17

John 10:30

John 17:11

➤ Concerning Husbands - Colossians 3:19

Ephesians 5:25

The reason husbands must love their wives

I Peter 3:7

Let me give a challenge for husbands

• _____ in your wife.
Proverbs 5:18

• Seek ways to _____ your wife.
I Corinthians 7:33

I Peter 4:8

➤ Concerning Children - Colossians 3:20

Children obeying their parents is accompanied by a _____.

Ephesians 6:2

Exodus 20:12

➤ Concerning Fathers - Colossians 3:21

“*exasperate*” =

Proverbs 13:24

Proverbs 22:15

Proverbs 29:15

➤ Concerning Slaves - Colossians 3:22-25

➤ Concerning Masters - Colossians 4:1

Wrap Up

- The husband who wants to be _____ in his home should treat his wife like a _____.
- Whether at home, work or school – a believer's new life in Christ is _____ everywhere.

Colossians 3:17

My NEXT STEP for Today:

- Pray with someone on campus TODAY!
- Do a random act of kindness for a family member.
- Focus prayer on behalf of a single parent.
- Send an email of thanks to your boss.

There's No Place Like Home

Colossians 3:18 – 4:1 – August 15, 2010

Intro: This morning we come to a section of Scripture dealing with the home. What comes to light in this section should be obvious. The whole of life ... including the home ... is to be submitted to the Lord Jesus Christ. Not just our thoughts ... not just our conduct in public ... but everything must be subject to the Lordship of Christ. Nothing in our life stands outside of Christ's control.

Indeed there is no place like home ... when Christ is at home in the heart of mom and dad. But many a Christian home is everything *but* this ... when Christ is not at home in every person and room of the home.

Rather than just jump into verse 18 ... let's be reminded of the context ... Colossians 3:10-14

The Christian home is to be occupied by people who have ...

- *Put on the new self* ... (3:10)
- *Put on a heart of compassion* (3:12)
- *Put on kindness* (3:12)
- *Put on gentleness* (3:12)
- *Put on patience* (3:12)
- People who have inclined their heart to forgive others (3:13)...
- People who have *put on love*

Transition: When these things are operational ... active especially in a husband and wife ... there will be *no place like home*. Leave these things out ... what the Lord says in verses 18 and following will not be received well ... or lived out well.

Colossians 3:16 says ... "*let the word of Christ richly dwell within you*"

Good to remember

If the word of Christ dwells in you richly, it will have an effect in the **HOME**

We begin with a favorite verse for many men ... Colossians 3:18. Wives, be subject to your husbands.

➤ Concerning Wives

Colossians 3:18

Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

It needs to be said ... the wives are *not* listed first because they have the greater need. Perhaps they are listed first because of the glorious elevation of position women have that they DID NOT have in the Roman world.

History reveals ...

Oriental cultures were notorious for treating women the same as slaves!

THEN .. as Greek and Roman cultures developed ... the extreme opposite occurred.

Women went from dirt to **DICTATORS**

“*be subject to*” = (hupotasso) – not the same word as “*obey*”

The feminist movement has distorted this phrase “*be subject to*” and turned it into a hated phrase

Hupotasso is a gentler term.

It is a military term meaning - “*to put in order*”

The point

God has designed **ORDER** in the home

And this order is displayed in the leadership structure of a home.

God has designed that a wife be under the leadership or headship of her husband

Things to understand

1. The wife’s role has nothing to do with **INFERIORITY** (being inferior)

I Peter 3:7

You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a **fellow heir of the grace of life**, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

A fellow heir means that husband and wife are spiritually equal.

The husband is not spiritually superior to his wife

Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

On a spiritual plane ...

Men and women are equal ...

We are all one in Christ Jesus

And it is my observation ... and I think most would agree ... that in most Christian homes ... the wife is more spiritually mature than the husband.

On the other hand ... some cultures are clueless about the role of the husband and the role of the wife (what the bible says is unknown).

Story

Scott Kemp returned from Albania a few weeks ago and told me about a teaching opportunity he had. He led a Bible study through the section of Scripture concerning the role of the husband and wife. He was surprised to hear from several afterwards that they never knew that the husband is to be the spiritual leader in the home. That the husband is to be the head of the home and the wife is to be subject to him.

In the church ... we’re aware of these principles ... but they are often ignored or believed to be outdated because that’s just not the way things are any more.

My friends ... we need to be reminded of these truths ... for they are every bit as real today as they were when they were first written.

2. Wives are to submit **WILLINGLY**

The very way this word is used in other places affirms this.

The term is used in **Luke 2:51** ... where Jesus voluntarily subjected Himself to His parents

Romans 13:1, 5

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

13:5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.

We are to **WILLINGLY** and **VOLUNTARILY** be submissive to our government.

The greatest example of submission - JESUS

John 10:17

“For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again.

John 10:18 “No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”

Watch this

1st - Jesus **DELIGHTED** in submitting to His Father

Jesus was not forced to submit to His Father!

He **CHOSE** to submit!

2nd – Christ’s submission did not diminish His **EQUALITY** with God

John 10:30

“I and the Father are one.”

The equality of the God-head ... was maintained while Jesus submitted to His Father

John 17:11

“... that they may be one even as We are.

Summary

Submission is a voluntary act where by one chooses to put themselves under authority for a good purpose!

What becomes clear

God designed order in the home

God did not design that two leaders lead the home. He designed one. And that is the husband ... regardless of their weaknesses.

This pastor's perspective

There are many wives that have the spiritual gift of leadership ... with husbands who do not have that gift. But that does not mean the wife is to lead.

Nomination of a Federal District Court Judge

In 2004 ... several women senators expressed outrage over the nomination of a federal district court judge who ... along with his wife ... wrote an article several years before ... saying ... "*the wife is to subordinate herself to the husband ... the woman is to place herself under the authority of the man.*"

One of our California woman senators ... during the debates ... called this judge's nomination *unacceptable*. She then said, "How can I or any other American believe that one who truly believes a woman is subordinate to her spouse [can] interpret the **Constitution** fairly?"

Another woman senator said that this nominee does not have a "*fundamental commitment to the equality of women in our society.*" (Fox News, July 10, 2004 – J Leon Holmes)

If you live according to what is politically correct ... your home will never receive the full blessing of God. But God designed these principles to make *home-life* a *great-life*.

One more qualifying note ...

A wife is to be subject to her husband *AS IS FITTING IN THE LORD* ...

For submission is not an absolute surrender of a wife's will ... for Jesus Christ is her absolute authority ... not her husband!

- ✓ It is NOT fitting for a wife to obey her husband when doing so is in direct defiance of God
- ✓ A physically abused wife is not to stay in that situation

Transition: Let me add one thing before we move on. To husbands this morning: the responsibility of the wife was not written to give you leverage. Because the only way this will work is when your wife voluntarily agrees to it. So it is not your responsibility to make your wife submit. Let it be her responsibility. Verse 18 was written to her ... not you!

➤ **Concerning Husbands**

Colossians 3:19

Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

The responsibility for the man is not something that is to be voluntary.
A husband is **COMMANDED** to love His wife!
It is not optional!

This love is *agape* love – a love that is selfless ... not expecting anything in return.

The husband is commanded to love his wife ...
A wife, on the other hand, displays her love for her husband by her submission to him.

And the example husbands are to follow is a **PERFECT** example

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

The reason husbands must love their wives

1ST - Jesus Christ is their **MODEL!**

Watch this

No husband can ever say he's done all he can in loving his wife!

For the husband has been given a perfect example ... Christ's love for the church, a love that resulted in His death for her.

The husband must seek to match this love ... while never being able to do so ... but pursuing it all the more!

2ND – Men might use their superior physical strength to control their home

I Peter 3:7

You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker ...

“someone weaker” is *physically* weaker ... not intellectually, emotionally or spiritually weaker

A word I would put right along side of the phrase “love your wife” is ... “be gracious to her.

We do well to recognize ...

A happy marriage does not happen **AUTOMATICALLY**

Comedian Henny Youngman said

The secret of a happy marriage remains a secret

I don't agree! Marriage was designed to bring happiness ... but not without a lot of work! It doesn't happen without biblical guidance and constant maintenance!

This pastor's perspective

A wife will be much more inclined to submit to a husband who loves her

Barbara Walters - Afghanistan

Barbara Walters did a story on gender roles in Kabul, Afghanistan several years before the Afghan conflict. She noted that women customarily walked about 5 paces behind their husbands. She returned to Kabul recently and observed that women still walk behind their husbands, but now seem to walk even further back and are now happy with the old custom. Ms. Walters approached one of the Afghani women and asked. “But why do you now seem happy with the old custom that you used to try and change?”

“***Land mines,***” said the woman.

My friends, this humorous story actually represents one of the ways a husband leads that should give a wife joy in submitting ... she is protected this way. He addresses the dangers in life to protect his family from them.

Let me give a challenge for husbands

- **DELIGHT** in your wife

Proverbs 5:18

“... rejoice in the wife of your youth.”

- Seek ways to **PLEASE** your wife

I Corinthians 7:33

{the} one who is married is concerned about ... how he may please his wife

A strong caution follows: 3:19

“... *do not be embittered against them*”

My friends ... you did not marry your wife because she was perfect!

Although someone said ...

Nobody is perfect until you fall in love with them.

But once marriage begins ... that perfection diminishes ... and humanity returns.

I know I refer to I Peter 4:8 a lot ... but it's because it's a verse that needs to be considered all the time!

I Peter 4:8

Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

Transition: There's no place like home when mom and dad love the Lord ... love each other ... live out their roles ... but there are two more things that will cause us to say ... “*there's no place like home*” ... and that relates to children

➤ **Concerning Children**

Colossians 3:20

Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

“*be obedient to*” is a stronger word than submit

How can a child live in the center of God's will?

By obeying their parents in all things!

How can a child please the Lord even as a child?

By obeying their parents in all things!

Notice

“Children obeying their parents” is accompanied by a **PROMISE**

Ephesians 6:2

HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise),

Exodus 20:12

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.”

There is no promise of a **longer** life for anyone ... but I believe there is a promise of a greater **quality** of life ... for children that obey their parents ...

Address children and young people

God knew exactly what He was doing when He gave you your parents!

- Their education matters little ... as well as their intellect and social skills
- Your parents were hand picked for you ... to raise you!
- Don't compare your parents with others ... simply obey them!

Transition: One more requirement is necessary to cause us to say, *there's no place like home* ... and that has to do with fathers

➤ **Concerning Fathers**

Colossians 3:21

Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

Story – my father was good at family devotions after dinner. From time to time he'd ask ... share your favorite verse. And without exception ... my siblings humor would come to the surface. More often than not ... the first one called on ... cited Colossians 3:21 as their favorite verse ... **FATHERS, DO NOT EXASPERATE YOUR CHILDREN.**

“*exasperate*” = to stir up, to stir up to anger

Spankings or swats do not automatically fit into this category ... for the Bible says ...

Proverbs 13:24

He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

Proverbs 22:15

Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

Proverbs 29:15

The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

Wisdom for fathers

Knowing when enough is enough in discipline ... knowing when to administer tenderness
I was blessed to have a father who was firm but never abused

What to avoid

EXCESSIVE punishment

Too many swats
 Swats on the wrong part of the body
 God designed a padded area on our bodies where spankings are appropriately directed – the bottom – which becomes the seat of understanding.

A child can have a sense of what is due them for their disobedience ...
 Father's need to be wise in knowing where to draw the line in punishment

Story:

I once heard of a father who was in the military and who would line up his children every morning and give them orders. Once as he was giving them their orders for the day he asked, "Any questions?" His son put up his hand and asked, "How do you get out of this outfit?"

Punishment needs to be reasonable and balanced ... and not done in anger.

Three more ways to exasperate...

- **IGNORING** a child
- **INDULGING** a child
- **NAME** calling

Demoting a child by belittling them

This pastor's exhortation

Dads ... never stop hugging your sons ... even if they're bigger than you and are grown men!

This pastor's perspective

Father's need to be **REASONABLE** with their children ...

Transition: Now Paul leaves the home and goes to the factory ... the office ... the job site ... and explains how the Lordship of Christ applies there.

➤ **Concerning Slaves**

For the sake of application ... I'd like to use the principles here for employees. Now I know your first thought is ... the text says "slaves" ... but you're calling them "employees." The text clearly is speaking to slaves ... for slavery was dominant in the first century. But the principles for slaves is the same for employees. I don't think there can be much argument here. I am not trying to ignore the subject of slavery ... for that is an appropriate study at another time.

Colossians 3:22-25

Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

3:23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,

3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

3:25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

What becomes clear

Employees need to remember that they work for the Lord ... and should fear Him when they do not perform adequately.

The Lord is addressing a problem that has been around for ages.
The problem is LAZINESS!

Exhortation:

We are to consider our Lord as our boss!

Story Missionary with a glass eye

A missionary to Africa tells the story that he was responsible for getting the nationals in his area to do certain jobs. He discovered that they were all rather lazy and would only perform while he was actually watching them. When he left they would stop work and do nothing until he returned. This man had a glass eye, and one day when his eye was irritating him he took it out and put it on a stump. When he returned he found that everybody was still working because the "eye," as they thought, was watching them all the while he was away.

That is what the apostle means here: eye-service! Working only when the boss is watching.

The missionary thought he had found a great way to free himself, until one day he returned to discover that one of the workers had sneaked around from behind and put his hat over the eye, and everyone was lounging around, enjoying themselves. That is eye-service! (Ray Stedman)

Transition: We will need to come back to this at another time. But look at one last group of people that need to ...

- *Put on the new self ... (3:10)*
- *Put on a heart of compassion (3:12)*
- *Put on kindness (3:12)*
- *Put on gentleness (3:12)*
- *Put on patience (3:12)*
- People who have inclined their heart to forgive others (3:13)...
- People who have *put on love*

➤ **Concerning Masters (Employers)****Colossians 4:1**

Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.

Taking advantage of employees is unacceptable to the Lord!

Christian employers need to be fair ...

And Christian employers need to consider themselves employees as well.

THEIR MASTER IS WATCHING THEM ... IN THE SAME WAY THAT EMPLOYEES HAVE A HEAVENLY MASTER WATCHING THEM.

Wrap Up – I want to be very practical here ...

- The husband who wants to be **KING** in his home should treat his wife like a **QUEEN**
- Whether at home, work or school – a believer’s new life in Christ is **OBVIOUS** everywhere

Colossians 3:17

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.