

COLOSSIANS

CHRIST IN YOUR HOME

Trevor Joefield

The book of Colossians 3:18 - 4:1

Outline

- The wife's relationship to her husband.
- The husband's relationship to his wife.
- Children and parents relationship.
- The relationship between slaves and masters which today can be applied to employees and employers/supervisors.

The Wife's Relationship To Her Husband

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. (v18)

- The ancient Greek word translated submit is essentially a word borrowed from the military. It literally means "to be under in rank."
- Submission is to yield to the authority of another; to surrender, to defer to the judgment or the discretion of another; to comply with (Websters Dictionary).
- Submission is yielding that option of leading to another and choosing to follow for the sake of order and/or unity
- The Greek word **hupotasso** means to place oneself under the authority of another. As such the wife submission is voluntary and never forced.
- Submit to your **own husbands**: that is in the context of marriage. The Bible never commands nor recommends a general submission of women unto men.
- **It is fitting in the Lord**, It honors God's Word and His order of authority.

Are there exceptions to this command? Consider the following:

- When the husband asks the wife to sin.
- When the husband is violent and physically threatening.
- When the husband breaks the marriage bond by adultery.

The Husband's Relationship To His Wife

Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. (v19)

- It is a self-giving love that gives without demanding or expecting re-payment
- The word translated love is **Agapao** which denotes caring love, a deliberate attitude of mind that concerns itself with the well-being of the one loved."
- It is the kind of love Jesus has for us His church (Ephesians 5:25) and is the love husbands should imitate towards their wives.
- **...and do not be bitter toward them**: "*giving them either bitter words, or blows, and denying them their affection, care, provision, protection, and assistance, but using them as servants, or worse. All which is barbarous, brutish, and unchristian, and utterly unbecoming the Gospel.*" (John Gill)

Children And Parents Relationship

Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. (v20-21)

- Children are to obey and honour their parents. Obey "in all things" while in their parents' household and under their authority. Honour is without a time limit!

- When a child respects his/her parent's authority, he/she is learning to respect God's order of authority in other areas of life.
- For this is well pleasing to the Lord (and the first commandment with a promise! Ephesians 6:2-3)
- **Fathers, do not provoke your children:** *"Parents can provoke their children by being too harsh, too demanding, too controlling, unforgiving, or just plain angry. This harshness can be expressed through words, through actions, or through non-verbal communication."* (David Guzik)
- *"Parents, and specially fathers, are urged not to irritate their children by being so unreasonable in their demands that their children lose heart and come to think that it is useless trying to please their parents."* (Bruce)
- **Lest they be discouraged** - *"Lest, by you continually finding fault with them, they should lose all courage, and despair of ever pleasing you."* (Barnes)

Relationship Between Slaves And Masters Which Today Can Be Applied To Employees And Employers/Supervisors

Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality. Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. (3:22-4:1)

- In a modern context, as Christians put on the new man, they will show a correct attitude towards their employer or supervisor.
- **Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God:** Therefore, we should work heartily, as to the Lord and not to men. God promises to reward those who work with that kind of heart.
- **Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair:** *"As Christians put on the new man, they will be just and fair to those who work for them. It is a terrible thing for a boss to cheat or mistreat his workers, but far worse for a Christian to do it."* (David Guzik)

Conclusion

As Christians we are to demonstrate Christlikeness in both our home and work relationships.