

The New Man in Marriage
Colossians 3:18-19
April 29, 2012

Introduction

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul says that we are complete in Christ. For righteousness, for holiness, for living Christ-like, we have everything we need in Christ. As Christians, we have a new nature, the new man, created in the image of the Creator. The old man, the old nature that was corrupt and completely alienated from God, has been crucified in Christ and buried with Him. When we were raised with Christ, we have a new man and a new nature. Paul then commands us from the Lord that we are to put off our old man (killing sins) and put on the new man daily. We are to be killing our fleshly desires and tendencies and put on Christ as we live day by day. Paul continues this line of thought in marriage between man and woman.

Colossians 3:18-19 *Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.*

Paul tells us that wives submit to husbands and that husbands love their wives. This was and is something revolutionary. Even today, this idea is not very popular...especially with the part with wives submitting to the husband. Some claim that it is cultural. If it was cultural, then Paul's command for husbands to love their wives is invalid as well. Obviously, this is not the case because the world tells us to "love each other." Paul is telling us what God has intended for man and woman in marriage to look like when they are in Christ Jesus. When Paul was writing to the Colossian church, there were two thoughts of marriage between the Greeks and the Jews. With the Greeks and Romans, the wives had no rights. If the man committed adultery, the wives could not accuse him; however, if the wife had committed adultery, then the husband could kill her without trial because it was his right. Men would treat women with contempt. This has been increasing today with men shirking their responsibilities to provide for the families that they have caused—having children out of wedlock, leaving the family for the single moms to take care of them or leaving their wives because they refuse the marriage responsibilities.

Not only that, but in recent years, we have the feminist movement, telling us that women should no longer subject herself to her husband. Women were seeking equal rights...to go to work with men, to fight combat with men. Because of this, marriage as an institute has been crumbling, being redefined, and in some places, irrelevant. I strongly believe that the women's movement has been devastating to the family because very few women stay at home and take care of the household and train children in the way of the Lord while the husband and father cares for the family. As a result, marriage in America and in Western Europe has eroded.

How did this come to pass? It happened because of the Fall. Here is what God said in His curse to woman.

Genesis 3:16 *To the woman He said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."*

God is saying to women that her desire would be to usurp her husband's authority. She would seek to undermine and gain that authority. Then men would rule over her. The Hebrew word for rule is a despotic, tyrannical type rule where he would trample over his wife's needs and feelings. Within the body of sin, the old nature, men and women have over the years have battled each other, trying to gain an upper hand in marriage.

Now the old man is dead and crucified, Paul says, we are no longer to do that. Here he presents a beautiful tapestry of marriage that God intends for men and women.

I. For Wives (18)

- Submit to your husband
 - Submit—to be under husband's leadership

- There can only be 1 leader in the household—that is the husband
- Submission is willing and accepting

Ephesians 5:22-24 *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

- Biblical thoughts
 - Heavenly order
 - Son is eternally submissive to the Father
 - Not in nature but in position

1 Corinthians 11:3 *Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.*

Note: Christ is submissive to the Father—it has to do with position and authority. Jesus Christ is not inferior to the Father, in fact, because of His nature, He is equal to the Father in every way, except that He submits willingly to His Father’s authority.

Note: This is the order that God has established.

1 Timothy 2:12-13 *And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve.*

Adam was created first. This is the order that God intended for the family. Husband, wife, and then children.

1 Peter 3:1-6 *Wives, in the same way*

Note: The same way—Peter is referring back to **2:13** and **2:18** when he calls Christians to submit to the government, and slaves (servants) to submit to their masters.

be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ²when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ³Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. ⁴Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight. ⁵For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, ⁶like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

- Holy women who hoped in God

Note: Some women may ask: “What if my husband is not a Christian? What if he is Mr. Passive in every way?” Peter here talks about how those women placed their hope in God because He is the One that ultimately takes care of them.

- Women who placed their hope in God not their husbands
 - Complete trust in God
- Fearlessness
 - No fear of the future
 - Complete trusting in God for care of their souls
- Adorning themselves

- Inner beauty
- Not concerned about her outer looks
- Develops a quiet and gentle spirit by submission

Titus 2:3-5 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. ⁴Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, ⁵to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

- Good testimony
 - You are showing Christ through your actions

Note: Through the wife's submissiveness, the husband will see Christ in her and perhaps change to follow the Lord.

- What submission does not mean
 - Blindly agreeing with everything husband says or do

Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

- Maid or servant

Note: Paul uses obey for children and servants...not for wives. Peter does say that Sarah obeyed, but in the context of following her husband because she trusted in God.

- Fitting to the Lord
 - Your duty
 - It pleases God when wives are submissive to husband

II. For Husbands (19)

Ephesians 5:25-33 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church--³⁰for we are members of His body. ³¹"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³²This is a profound mystery-but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

- Love your wife
 - The command to love
 - Leadership role
 - What is loving your wife?
 - See your wife as the weaker vessel

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

- Caring for her, cherishing her
- Caring for her as you do with your body
- Submit to her needs

1 Corinthians 7:3-4 *The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife.*

- Living with her in an understanding way
 - To know her
 - Sensitive to her needs and feelings

Note: But you don't understand...she's hard to be with. You don't know how she's treated me. That is not the issue. Christ gave His life up for sinners that hated Him, and Paul says we are to do the same with our wives. We have to love them and understand them.

- Self-sacrifice
 - Loving your wife as Christ loved the church
- Do not be harsh with her
 - Do not be bitter with her
 - Tyranny—ruling over her with harshness
 - Making your wife mad or upset
 - Unforgiving
 - Selfishness
 - If done so, God will not hear your prayers

Malachi 2:13-16 *Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because He no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. ¹⁴You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. ¹⁵Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are His. And why one? Because He was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. ¹⁶"I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.*

1 Timothy 5:8 *If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

Conclusion

For husbands, a happy wife is a happy life! For wives, it is an everlasting holy joy to submit to her husband in obedience to the Lord.