

New Relationships Part 1 Colossians 3:18, 19 Sufficient Series

¹⁸ Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them - PRAY

Suzy – Snow white: NO they got married – Getting married and living happily ever after are not always Synonymous

We are in that section of Colossians that deals with Christian living

- Noted Chapters 1-2 Right thinking
- Chapters 3-4 Right Living

We have Summed up Paul's admonition this way:

- **Be who you are in Christ and not who you were in the Flesh!**

We have seen thus far that IN Christ – GIVEN A New Perspective “Since we have been raised seek those things above, set mind

A) New Clothes – Take off the old man and put on the New man

B) And as we come to V.18 In Christ – **New relationships**

1) V.18-19 Relationship between a Husband and wife

- V.20-4:1 Relationship between Children & parents and workers and employers.

Today husbands and wives

A) Next week – Parents, Workers, Employers

B) **Now before you tune out because:**

1) You have already been married a while – kids are gone, or because you are single.

C) We ALL need to understand what God says about each of these things because – we never know when our situation might change – Be prepared

D) We never know who God is going to bring into our lives that He wants us to be able to minister to

1) **BE IT Friends, children, grand children.**

D) On top of that – the principles mentioned here do apply to other areas of our lives.

E) Now in our text Paul starts with the Wives – that is where we are going to start as well - ¹⁸ **Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.**

It probably wasn't long after the fall / when the earth started to become populated that the debate began – continues to this day

A) What Debate am I referring to? WHY DID God create Eve? Differing opinions –

B) **Here is what One LADIES group said**

7 REASONS WHY GOD CREATED EVE !!!!

7. God worried that Adam would always be lost in the garden because He knew men would never ask for directions.

6. God knew that Adam would one day need someone to hand him the TV remote because men don't want to see what is on TV; they want to see WHAT ELSE is on TV.

5. God knew that Adam would never make a doctor's appointment for himself.

4. God knew that if the world was to be populated there would have to be **someone to bear children because men would never be able to handle it.**

3. As Keeper of the Garden Adam would never remember where he put his tools.

2. As the Bible says, "It is not good for man to be alone," he only ends up getting himself in trouble.

And the NUMBER ONE reason...

#1. When God finished the creation of Adam he stepped back, scratched his head and said,

"I can do better than that."

Actually – God invented marriage and He knew exactly what He was doing when He made the husband and the wife the way that He did.

A) He **carefully designed the roles** of each and when we settle into those roles this thing called Marriage can be a **TREMENDOUS BLESSING**

B) Now if you are familiar with the other marriage passages in the Bible –

1) You know what Paul writes here in Colossians – is very abbreviated

C) 2 Verses – 2 sentences – really -
Compared Ephesians 5:22

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

D) What Paul says to the Husband is a lot longer too.

1) Here in Colossians **one sentence - 11 words**

E) In Ephesians 9 verses are directed to the Husband

1) 184 words

So Why is Paul so short Here in Colossians ? –

A) Paul Narrows it down to this: He Focuses in on the heart! –

B) Paul summarizes the MARRIAGE teaching into these two heart issues –

1) The Wife's willingness to submit herself under her husband *as is fitting in the Lord*

C) The Husbands willingness to really love his wife and not get bitter

1) Both are issues of the heart!

Now in order to fully comprehend what is being said here – we need to understand the **Climate of the culture at the time of this writing.**

A) Rome was the Dominate influence in the world AND Male Dominance was written into Roman Law.

B) Consequently this was the **Roman view of Marriage:**

C) Men were the **absolute heads of their households.**

1) They could beat and kill their slaves.

D) They could discard their wives and they could even kill their children – no 2nd thought

1) And with no recourse whatsoever.

E) Men were the heads of their households and women were considered inferior.

Roman mindset toward women said: *We have prostitutes for sexual pleasure. We have female slaves to take care of our bodies and we have wives to bear children and to take care of the house.*

B) So literally under Roman Law a Husband was obligated to provide a roof over his wife's head and the opportunity for her to bear Children. –

C) He didn't owe her **DATE NIGHTS – ROMANTIC DINNERS – Love Language – Marriage conf. – NOTHING LIKE THAT**

1) Roof and the opportunity to bear kids – meaning he needed to sleep with her sometimes.

D) Women were seen AS incomplete men. – The common Roman prayer to the gods

“Thank you that I am a Greek and not a Barbarian, that I am a human and not an animal and most of all that I am a MAN & NOT A WOMAN. “

Now the reason I point this out is because the whole concept of a wife being submitted to her husband was not a radical thought in their culture.

A) NOT SAYING IT WAS RIGHT – COMPLETELY WRONG – JESUS FIXED THAT

B) The word submit means to place yourself under another: Wives were submissive – out of Obligation –

C) It was your duty under Roman law

If the only thing Paul said was Wives submit ... the ladies would be like Duh – Paul ! – No Choice

A) The Radical thought was this: *as is fitting in the Lord*

B) With that simple statement Paul was hitting on a HUGE IMPORTANT TRUTH –

1) Submission to their husbands is connected to their walk and relationship with Jesus

Wives were to place themselves under their husband not as a matter of Roman law – but voluntarily like the Church is submitted to Jesus.

A) Not as a matter of LAW – BUT LOVE
NOT OBLIGATION – BUT DEVOTION.

B) Come back to that thought in a minute.

C) So the radical thing for women wasn't the command to submit **but how: as is fitting in the Lord**

C) And Culturally speaking The Radical thing – for the man was that God would call them to love their wives at all.

1) Let alone love them the way Jesus loved the Church

D) Foreign concept - in Roman times Women were property

1) Once again – we see how the Gospel elevates the role of women in Society

But People still wrestle with this command for Wives to Submit

A) Lewis T Talbot – Church of Open door - Poison in your tea story

B) Now I would like to think – you ladies are more mature than that

1) Talbot - “If I was your husband I would drink it.”

C) Submission: I want to clarify right away that this command does not address a woman's intrinsic worth as a person and a child of God.

1) A wife is equal in value to her husband. Peter said the wife is a **“fellow heir of the grace of life”** (1Pet 3:7).

A wife's submission has to do with function, not value.

A) Just as Jesus Christ was functionally submitted to the Father, yet equal with the Father, **so a wife is functionally subordinate to her husband, yet equal to him.**

B) Jesus had a function and a role to play in God's salvation plan.

1) The wife has a role to play in God's marriage plan.

C) Paul tells us in Ephesians – when Marriage is functioning right it is a beautiful picture of the Church's relationship to Christ.

That I think is what is at the heart of this phrase **“as is fitting in the Lord.”**

A) Often times when we quote this verse: The idea is negative – You submit in those things that fit with Scripture.

B) If your husband ask you to do something that goes against scripture you ARE NOT TO SUBMIT – {Ex. ROB A BANK}

C) That idea is definitely implied in this verse – Don't go against scripture

But the command is more positive than negative.

A) *As is fitting in the Lord* – means this: God has a ROLE for your life as a wife and when you settle into it – IT FITS

B) **Cinderella's glass slipper** – “I was made for this Role!”

1) Your role is essential to your husband being able to Fulfill his role in taking care of the family – leading the family – spiritual leader.....

C) This is very clear in Scripture: If we go all the way back to Genesis we learn that **Eve was called Adam's Helpmate.**

1) Genesis 2:18 **I will make A helper suitable for him.” NIV**

D) Suitable: NLT Just right – ESV – Fit

1) Well fitting!

God calls her Adam's Helper **“ezer knegdo,”** a very powerful name { Guys look at your wife – tell her you are my Ezer Knegdo

A) Here on out – impress her – highest compliment – Romantic – Baby you are my Ezer Knegdo

B) Here is why it is so special: The name is only used of God in Scripture, other than Genesis 2:18 – when it is talking about the wife.

C) STOP - **(NOT SAYING THE WOMAN IS GOD!)**

1) But in the context of well fitting: She is man's essential comrade, His life saver – His esteemed Helper – that is what this word means

Recently at a Marriage Conference – my wife Denise shared this important insight on this:

A) She said this: Although we ladies should see this as an incredible blessing and complement – too often we don't

B) We view this role with contentment and bitterness – Why ?

1) Cause of the fairy tale stories

C) In the Fairy tales: The Prince comes and rescues the princess – He is the Lifesaver

D) We want our husbands to be our knights in shining armor – to be our helpers

E) So we fall into this trap of complaining and getting frustrated that our Husband doesn't help out enough – always busy

She said: WE get our focus Backwards: We are focused on our need for help –

A) Rather than our CALLING TO BE A HELPER

B) Once again: Satan has distorted God's original plan – turned something into a negative –

1) That God meant to be a **TREMENDOUS BLESSING TO WOMEN!**

Think of it this way: Jesus is your Prince – He is the lifesaver – who saved you out of the pit of sin.

A) One reason He saved you is so that you could be a blessing to the Church – your husband and to your kids.

B) Now what I am saying is not to be taken as an excuse for husbands to be lazy and not help around the house!

C) But to simply say Wives – God has DESIGNED a role for you that is **well fitting** if you would embrace it

D) Settle into that Role – Helpmate – Ezer Knejo – You will be blessed and God will be Glorified.

But What if my Husband is not walking with the Lord ? Definitely harder!

but listen to what Peter says:

1 Peter 3:1-2 *Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, [Unbeliever or a believer who is not walking] they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.*

Here Submission is connected to her fear of the Lord – Her love for Jesus and her desire to please Him – even when Husband is being rebellious

A) Ladies listen: You are God's daughter – before you are that guy's wife.

B) God loves you and will take care of you – Just like He did with Sarah

C) Honor your Husband – Show Him Respect – even when He doesn't deserve it.

1) **Impossible: Why Ephesians 5:18 is important.**
Now I will say this: Fellows when you are doing your part {At least trying to Love your wife like Christ loved the Church –

A) It is so much easier for her to Submit – Be supportive – Helpmate

B) Because again the Picture is powerful – **Jesus and the Church** – We love Jesus because.....? – He first loved us

1) Our Love for Christ is a response to His love for us

C) Husbands – Your wife's **love and respect** for you is going to be affected by your love for her.

So to the Husband Paul's simple Command is LOVE HER and don't be bitter toward her!

A) Now the Word Love he uses here is Agapeo – Agape – **Elevating The Husbands love to the highest form – God's Love**

B) We Know in the Book of Ephesians – that Paul described what that looked like – **Jesus Gave HIMSELF for the Church**

1) Love her and lay down your life for her – **TAKE A BULLET? –**

C)He **IS NOT** talking about being willing to take a bullet – Easy – normal

1)He goes on to describe how – we are to serve our wives –

D)Nourish and Cherish them the way we do our own bodies.

1)Be in tune to their needs like we are in tune to our own flesh!

Paul is describing the need of the Husband to DAILY pick up THE CROSS – The Cross Represents?

A)**IN JESUS' CASE** - THE Cross is an instrument of death that brought life to others

B)The Cross was an instrument of death that helped others become who and what they were meant to be –

C)So to love your wife like Christ – is to daily love her in a way that helps her to become who She was meant to be.

1)Love her in a way that helps her fulfill this tremendous role of the **Ezer Knegdo** Helpmate:

D)So you recognize her strengths and you let her help.

1)You recognize her wisdom and you bring her into decisions

E)You recognize her sensitivity to things and to the Lord and – you pay attention to that!

1)Marriage is an Ordered Equality – **God gave to THEM dominion over the garden and animals AND - God said to THEM be fruitful**

It wasn't Adam – you are in Charge and Eve is your slave – No! you guys are in this together –

A)Adam you are the head: Here is what that means – Not because Smarter probably aren't

B)Not because more spiritual or more spiritually sensitive: Probably not

1)Why? – Two reasons: Because you are going to be held the Most responsible for your marriage

C)So in that case – You better figure out how to best Utilize your designed helper.

The 2nd reason: Husband is the leader- the Head? It is all about the picture: JESUS AND THE CHURCH – Husband – role Jesus - love like Jesus

A)Wife responds like the Church

B)Pressure guys? - GOOD – WE NEED JESUS – Help of the Holy Spirit

1)He is the STANDARD

C)The measuring stick is not the guy across the row – the street –

1)**Your boss or you sibling** –

D)Jesus is the measuring Stick and He can help us be who and what He has called us to be if we let Him

So Husbands Your role: AGAPE your wife –

A)Now what about the 2nd part of that verse, “and do not grow bitter towards them.”

B)What did Paul mean by that? -

C)Why would a husband Grow bitter?

1st century culture: Typical to grow bitter at your property – New Car

A)Doesn't take long – Frustrated it doesn't do this or that.

B)So I would venture to say that was a common occurrence in the Roman culture: Compare their wives – to others

1)Easy to grow discontent –

But I see this is still a huge problem in our Culture: Main reasons is expectations

A)Guys come into a marriage relationship with a lot of expectations for their wives

B)Expectations about sex – How often - Bitter when not meeting his expectations – {Not every day!

C)Expectations about how she cleans, {Some guys are horrible –

1)They notice the one thing that is not done – instead of the many that are done

C) Expectations about how she takes care of the kids {We think we can do it better until they go out of town for a few days – {My wife is a god

D) Expectations about How she spends the money

E) Expectations about how she shows him
RESPECT

1) When a wife doesn't respect and appreciate her husband and his hard work – Guys can grow bitter

Not just his expectations – often times it is hers as well

A) She expects him to be emotionally connected – Best friend

B) Means different things to Men and women: Woman best friends talk all the time – every day

1) Men can go weeks

C) {BDay – My good friend – haven't spoken in 20 yrs

1) Women call or text over the most minute things – Child does something cute or Sale at the Mall

D) **Dudes don't do that typically** – Not going to text – Billy just got his first hit in T-ball

1) **Sale on Motor oil at Auto zone**

D) Guys it is about Loyalty – and Value – Sense that you know that in the heat of the battle – you call

1) Your friends are there.

So she has these expectations for him emotionally that He is not going to meet - She gets frustrated – Never enough – He gets bitter

A) She has expectations about her husband being the spiritual leader

Picture in her mind – what that looks like

B) Once again He feels like He can never measure up to that – He grows bitter

1) Ladies – Your husband is not Jesus – Never will be

C) She expects affirmation: He doesn't give it enough

1) She is always asking – Do you love me ? Am I pretty ?

D) Guys are dumb – **We think – I don't ask her if she loves me**

1) I never ask her if she **thinks I am handsome**

2) Never ask – does this outfit make me look fat

Instead of realizing that men and women are different –

A) Part of the way He nourishes and cherishes his wife with Positive affirmation

B) The guy gets bitter – Thinking – I don't need that – why does she do so much

C) Song of Solomon – Awesome picture: Don't look at me **AFFIRMATION**

D) Response: I am the Rose of Sharon the Lilly of the Valley – two beautiful flowers –

She is like – **I WANT YOU RIGHT NOW!**

READ YOUR BIBLES

So Paul says Guys: Agape your wives and don't grow bitter towards them

A) What he is really saying: Heart issue: You truly Agape them – see their value – appreciate them – serve them – Not going to grow bitter

B) Bitter at Retreat:

1) Word – Guys were called to repent

C) Guys came home and went to work!

1) **Sought God and his grace ...Help**

D) Retreats never become realities because when Resistance hits we run

1) Not these guys –

Today: Close

A) Wife – Resisting your God given Role – Embrace today

B) Husband – Bitter – Need to repent

C) **First Miracle Wedding Feast – Marriages need miracles**