

Sermon Notes

Family Standards for Christ-followers

Colossians 3:18-21

by Christian Sanich, 12/5/2021

There may be Q&A at the end as time allows. So note your questions.

3:18 Wives, you should submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Submission is basically following the lead of another. It is to give yourself to the will of another, instead of you just following your own will.

Men and women are equally valued by God, and submission does not demean that.

We all have people to submit to, according to God. In none of the relationships does it imply that those submitting have less dignity or less value than those they submit to.

God the Son even submits to God the Father.

You are not submitting to a perfect person. You are trusting God, doing what He wants you to do.

Husbands shouldn't demand submission.

Exception: if they ask you to do something that is disobedient to God

3:19 Husbands, you should love *your* wives and you should not be embittered against them.

This love means that the welfare of another guides your conduct. It is about taking actions - doing things for the benefit of another, instead of just fulfilling your own desires.

Christ is our example of this kind of love. So we are to love our wives by making sacrifices, in order to benefit them. (Eph. 5:25)

Do not be harsh in your leadership, even if they are doing things that you feel prompt that response in you.

3:20 Children, you should obey your parents in relation to all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

Do what your parents say, even when you don't want to.

3:21 Fathers (parents), you should not provoke your children, so that they will not lose heart.

In your responsibility of directing your kids, don't do it in such a way that it would provoke them to want to fight you. They will lose motivation to follow you.

What is your response to this? Discuss it with someone today.

Suggested related reading: Genesis 1:26-27, Galatians 3:26-28, Romans 13:1-2, Acts 5:29, Hebrews 12:5-11