

## Lesson 16

### Colossians 3:19-21

Day 1

- As you may have noticed, Ephesians is a very similar book to Colossians in several paragraphs. This is true for Colossians 3:19-21 and Ephesians 5:25-6:1-4. Read both of the texts below and make observations about their similarities and differences. I suggest you highlight the similarities and write down the differences.

Colossians 3:19-21	Ephesians 5:25-6:1-4
<p><b>19</b> Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.</p> <p><b>20</b> Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.</p> <p><b>21</b> Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.</p> <p><b>Differences:</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, <b>26</b> so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <b>27</b> that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. <b>28</b> So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; <b>29</b> for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also <i>does</i> the church, <b>30</b> because we are members of His body. <b>31</b> FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. <b>32</b> This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. <b>33</b> Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must <i>see to it</i> that she respects her husband.</p> <p><b>1</b> Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <b>2</b> HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), <b>3</b> SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.</p> <p><b>4</b> Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.</p>

## Day 2

2. When reading Colossians 3:19, we may be tempted to focus on how our husbands are not loving us properly. Instead, we should be asking ourselves how we can support our husbands in fulfilling this command as we develop humble and submissive spirits. Examine your heart as you consider the following verses and questions (if you are unmarried, replace “husband” with “others”). Circle the ones you need to work on and write down some ideas of how to improve in this area:

Based on Stuart Scott’s *From Pride to Humility*:

- a. Do you see yourself as no better than your husband? (Romans 12:16, Ephesians 3:8)
- b. Do you seek to listen and understand your husband as opposed to wanting him to listen to you? (James 1:19, Philippians 2:3-4)
- c. Do you refrain from speaking to others about your husband’s failings? Do you honor him publicly? (Proverbs 11:13, 12:4)
- d. Are you joyfully submissive to your husband and all those in authority? (Romans 12:1-2, 13:1-2)
- e. Do you show preference to your husband instead of insisting on your own way? (Romans 12:10)
- f. Are you teachable, thankful for and open to criticism and reproof? (Proverbs 9:8, 27:5-6, 1 Corinthians 4:7)
- g. Do you seek to encourage and serve your husband? (Ephesians 4:29, Galatians 5:13)
- h. Are you quick to admit when you are wrong and quick to forgive your husband? (Proverbs 29:23, Colossians 3:12-14)
- i. Are you more concerned with your own sin than your husband’s sin? (Matthew 7:3-4)
- j. Are you genuinely glad for your husband’s successes in the things that are important to him? (Romans 12:15)

3. Though it may be difficult to come under a husband's leadership at times, putting ourselves in the shoes of our husbands, and feeling the weight of responsibility being born as the head of the home can help us. Instead of criticizing your husband, pray for him, that he might fulfill his God-given duties. Take time now to pray for your husband. Use the guide below, and add any additional prayers at the end of this list.
- That God will make my husband a loving leader in my home and he would not be embittered against me. (Colossians 3:19)
  - That God would cause my husband to love me as Christ loved His bride. (Ephesians 5:25)
  - That my husband would build up others with gracious speech which reflects compassion, kindness, gentleness, humility, and patience. (Ephesians 4:29, Colossians 3:12)
  - That my husband would make wise decisions in our home and be led by the Spirit. (James 1:5)
  - That my husband would keep God's way pure by hiding God's word in his heart. (Psalm 119:9-11)
  - That my husband would be a peacemaker and model forgiveness, understanding the abundance of grace that has been given to him in Christ. (Colossians 3:13, Ephesians 4:31-32)
  - That my husband would sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, free from the love of money, manage his home well and keep his children under control. (1 Timothy 3:2 and 4)
  - That my husband would love the Lord our God with all his heart, mind, soul and strength teaching my children in word and deed. (Deuteronomy 6)
  - That my husband would not exasperate our children that they may not lose heart. (Colossians 3:21)
  - That my husband would live with me as a fellow heir of the grace of life and in an understanding way, especially with my ever-changing emotions. (1 Peter 3:7)
  - That my husband will be pure in his mind, emotions, and body. (Matthew 5:28, Ephesians 4:1)
  - That my husband would do his work as unto the Lord, avoiding idleness, and not depending on others to provide for him. (Colossians 3:23, 2 Thessalonians 4:11-12)
  - That my husband would love the church, the bride of Christ employing his spiritual gifts for the purpose of building God's kingdom on this earth. (1 Peter 4:8-10)
  - That my husband would long for the pure milk of the word that by it he might grow in respect to salvation and do all things for the glory of God. (1 Peter 2:2, Colossians 3:17)

## Day 3

4. What command is given to children in Colossians 3:20 and Ephesians 6:3?
  - a. In what situations is this to be done?
  - b. Why is this to be done?
  - c. What do the following verses teach about the correlation between obeying our heavenly Father and obeying our earthly fathers? (1 Peter 1:14-16 and Hebrews 12:4-11)
  
5. How are the accounts from 1 Samuel 2:12-25 and 1 Samuel 3 examples of the importance and the blessing of Colossians 3:20 and Ephesians 6:3. Please take the time to read through these passages slowly, paying attention to the details.
  
6. Read Genesis 22, and answer the following questions:
  - a. Write down all the ways that Isaac is an example of obedience in Genesis 22. What difficult things did his father ask him to do?
  - b. What was provided by God on behalf of Isaac? In Genesis 22: 14, what attribute of God is listed?
  - c. What specific blessing was given to Isaac in Genesis 22:17?
  - d. How can you use this story to encourage your children/grandchildren?

## Day 4

7. The foundation and goal for parenting is given in Deuteronomy 6. Read this wonderful chapter of the Torah, and answer the following questions:
  - a. In Colossians 3:20, the specific command for children to obey is given to the children themselves, but who is responsible to teach and reinforce this concept during the younger years? (Deut. 6:2-3)
  - b. In verses 5-7 and verse 12, what does Yahweh desire for the parents to whom He is speaking?
  - c. In what contexts would parents be able to teach obedience to Yahweh according to Deuteronomy 6: 6-8?
  - d. Read the following excerpt from Tedd Tripp's *Shepherding a Child's Heart*, pp. 28-29. Write what you learn about your role as a parent (*italics are mine*):

As a parent you have authority because God calls you to be in authority in your child's life. You have the authority to act on behalf of God. As a father or mother, you do not need exercise rule over your jurisdiction but over God's. You act at His command. You discharge a duty that He has given. You may not try to shape the lives of your children as pleases *you* but *Him*.

All you do in your task as parents must be done from this point of view. You must undertake all your instruction, your care and nurture, your correction and discipline because God has called you to. You act with the conviction that He has charged you to act on His behalf...

Deuteronomy 6 underscores this view of parental responsibility. In verse 2, God says His goal is for the Israelites and their children and grandchildren to fear the Lord by keeping His decrees. The person by whom God's decrees are passed on is the parent whom God calls to train his children when they sit at home, when they walk by the road, when they lie down, and when they rise up. God has an objective. He wants one generation to follow another in His ways. God accomplishes this objective through the agency of parental instruction.

Ephesians 6:4 commands you to bring your children up in the training and instruction *of the Lord*. This is a command to provide the training and instruction of the Lord; to function on God's behalf.

Understanding this simple principle enables you to think clearly about your task. If you are God's agent in this task of providing essential training and instruction in the Lord, then you, too, are a person under authority. You and your child are in the same boat. You are both under God's authority. You have different roles, but the same Master.

8. What is the main characteristic of a wise son according to Proverbs 1:8 and a foolish son according to Proverbs 15:5?

9. What is the end result of neglecting the command of Colossians 3:20?

Proverbs 10:1:

Proverbs 15:20:

Proverbs 17:25:

10. Read the following excerpt from *The Mother at Home* by John S.C. Abbott written in 1833, and write what you learn from his observation:

I was once, when riding in the country, overtaken by a rain shower, and compelled to seek shelter in a farm house. Half a dozen rude and ungovernable boys were racing about the room, in such an uproar as to prevent the possibility of conversation with the father, who was sitting by the fire. As I, however, endeavored to make some remark the father shouted out, "Stop that noise, boys." They paid him no more heed than they did to the rain. Soon again, in an irritated voice, he exclaimed. "Boys, be still or I will whip you; as sure as you are alive I will." But the boys, as though accustomed to such threats, screamed and quarreled without intermission. At last the father said to me, "I believe I have got the worst boys in town; I never can make them mind me."

The fact was, these boys had the worst father in town! He was teaching them disobedience as directly and efficiently as he could. He was giving commands which he had no intention of enforcing – and they knew it! This, to be sure, is an extreme case. But just so far as any mother allows her authority to be disregarded, so far does she expose herself to the contempt of her children -- and actually teaches them lessons of disobedience.

## Day 5

11. It is interesting that of all the things the Lord could tell fathers NOT TO DO, He instructed them to not exasperate (provoke to anger) their children. It's good for us to ask ourselves, "Why is this?" Define "exasperate" from a dictionary:
12. Read the following excerpt from *Gospel-Powered Parenting* by William P. Farley, pp.115-117, and write down anything helpful or convicting that you read. Also write down how you will apply it:

Hypocrisy cripples our parenting example. Hypocrisy occurs whenever we tell our kids to do one thing; and then do the opposite ourselves. Hypocrisy is one of the sins that provokes children to anger. "Fathers do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4) In this text, Paul doesn't tell us what provokes children to anger, but hypocrisy has to be at the top of the list.

Behind hypocrisy, pride is usually lurking. Pride is blindness to our faults, sins, and failings....

Here is the problem: Our children see the very sins to which we are blind. They have a front-row seat, and they are watching intently. Pride makes it possible for us to tell our children one thing even while we *unknowingly* do another. Pride blinds us to the contradictions within ourselves, or worse, puffs us up so much that we don't care. The result is hypocrisy, and more than anything else, hypocrisy hardens our children to the message we want them to hear....

Here is the point: Pride, manifesting itself as hypocrisy, provokes children to anger. It discourages them. It closes their ears to our instruction. It makes their hearts stony ground, where the gospel cannot take root (Matt. 13:18-21). When Mom invests herself and her career selfishly, at the expense of her children, and then expects unselfishness from them, two things happen. First, the children ignore Mom's words and follow her example. Second, they become hardened to her values. When a father takes his family to church each Sunday, pretending that Christ is first in his life, but in reality makes his hobbies number one, his children see it. They grow hard and calloused to church and religion.

13. Here are the 25 ways Lou Priolo lists that provoke a child to anger. I have included a few explanations. For others that I have not included, you may go the website listed. After reading the list, please highlight or write down the top three areas in which you provoke your children/grandchildren to anger. Spend time confessing this to the Lord.

*Heart of Anger*, Lou Priolo

[https://www.counseling.org/uploaded/Marriage\\_and\\_Family/25\\_Ways\\_to\\_Provoke\\_Anger.pdf](https://www.counseling.org/uploaded/Marriage_and_Family/25_Ways_to_Provoke_Anger.pdf)

1. **A relationship lacking in marital harmony**
2. **Establishing and maintaining a child-centered home:** If parents do not know how to set up a Christ-centered home (which is defined as each member understanding his biblical role in the family and committing to place Christ above self), then the home is likely to be child-centered. It is a foundational principle that the husband and wife work at being closer to each other than to the child. If that does not occur, the child may view himself as equal and will tend to become angry when his desires do not get placed on equal status as the needs and desires of the parent. 1

3. **Modeling sinful anger**
4. **Habitually disciplining while angry**
5. **Scolding**
6. **Being inconsistent with discipline:** There are two common types of inconsistent discipline. One type is utilizing different parental standards of discipline. In other words, Dad believes a certain behavior is wrong, while Mom sees nothing wrong with it or vice versa. The second is when parents are daily inconsistent on what is punishable behavior, and/or how severe the punishment will be. Both types can bring undue frustration to children.
7. **Having double standards**
8. **Being legalistic**
9. **Not admitting you're wrong and not asking for forgiveness**
10. **Constantly finding fault**
11. **Reversing God-given roles**
12. **Not listening to your children or taking seriously their side of the story:** Children can be difficult to fill with truth unless they are emptied of their self and those issues that worry and concern them. A parent doesn't always need to agree with their child's reasoning, conclusions and opinions, but should focus on how to lead them to the truth. That path to truth is strengthened when parents take the time to understand their child's perspective. To gain that perspective, parents need to have conversations with their children and display the skill of listening to comprehend and not just to respond.
13. **Comparing them to others**
14. **Not making time "just to talk"**
15. **Not praising or encouraging your child**
16. **Failing to keep your promises:** Most moms and dads have every intention of honoring their commitments to their children. When promises and commitments are not consistently kept (regardless of reason) and no attempt is made to modify the promise or seek forgiveness from the child for breaking that promise, the child's disappointment can turn into anger. If the string of broken promises continues to grow, so will the child's view that his parents are undependable, unreliable, and possibly even deceitful.
17. **Chastening in front of others**
18. **Not allowing enough freedom**
19. **Allowing too much freedom:** When children are allowed to (1) practice sinful behavior, (2) indulge in non-sinful activities that are in excess of what their maturity and responsibility levels can process, or (3) live an undisciplined life that allows them to receive what they demand, other problems often develop.<sup>4</sup> Children that grow up in homes that allow too much freedom and not enough discipline often perceive that they are not loved by their parents.
20. **Mocking your child**
21. **Abusing them physically**
22. **Ridiculing or name calling**
23. **Having unrealistic expectations:** Parents should try to remember that the Bible acknowledges that children speak, think and reason differently from adults. This process takes time and occurs at varying rates depending on the child. Frustration for both child and parent is probable when parents impose standards that their children are developmentally incapable of performing.
24. **Practicing favoritism**
25. **Training with worldly methods rather than God's Word**