

BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE

Col 3:18-19

INTRODUCTION

Motivation, impetus, engine is **3:17!** → Start w/ the Home!

New Life! – circumcised in, buried with, raised with, made alive together with
→ New Lifestyle!
→ New Home

The most basic and fundamental unit of society, the family.

How to have a happy satisfying fulfilling Marriage.

Most Important for your children → Marriage

Nowhere should the social aspect of the new man be more evident than in the home—the single most important social institution in the world. It is difficult to see how Christianity can have any positive witness in the world if it cannot transform its own homes.

1st Qualification for Leaders → Home and Marriage

the model of a well-run household provides foundation for a well-run church

READ Col 3:18-4:1

In 3:18-4:1, 6 groups of people, in 3 pairs – Submission and Authority – underlying each is the principle of authority – in each pair, God first addresses the subordinate member (wives, children, slaves) then the same group - Husbands, Fathers, Masters

short sentences – packed w/ power

Each Command is Others-Oriented → Duties, not Rights
→ denial of self

God's Message to Us is about our Responsibilities, not our Rights;
our Obligations, not our Authority

Not a syllable is written directly to the wife of her equality

Not a syllable is written directly to the husband of his authority

Proposⁿ: 2 Ingredients for Building a Better Marriage:

→ **Biblical Submission**

→ **Sacrificial Love**

So that: All the truths about the Person and Work of Christ – All the treasures of grace – are brought to bear → on your home, on your family, on your Marriage

You will Obey these foundational commands for a Healthy, God-Honoring Marriage

When you as a couple live by this blueprint, you will never stop enjoying your marriage relationship. You will never simply coexist. You will remain “sweethearts” throughout your entire lives if you commit yourself to following God’s plan for marriage.

1st Ingredient for Building a Better Marriage...

I. Biblical Submission 3:18

“Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”

Point – In spite of its straightforward clarity, God’s simple statement is widely challenged, even by those claiming to be evangelicals.

Many Disobey. Many others obey w/o full Understanding.

The absence of biblical submission undermines the cohesiveness of the family because it establishes an anarchy w/ no one in charge and everyone simply doing what is right in their own eyes

“the alternative to rule is not freedom, but the unconstitutional tyranny of the most selfish member.” – C.S. Lewis

Proof – The word is used in Luk 2:51 to refer to Jesus’ submission to His parents. Paul uses the word to teach submission to God’s law. His use of it in Romans 13:1, 5 refers to the necessary submission of every person to God-ordained authority. In 1 Corinthians 15:27–28, the word looks to the time when all things in the universe are made subject to Christ and God in eternal glory.

Heb 13:17 – to the leaders

The principle of authority and submission in the marriage relationship is found throughout the Bible. 1 Cor 11:3, “Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman.”

Sinful rebelliousness in **all** human hearts to authority – think that true fulfillment and happiness is found in being free to do whatever you want to do (1 Pt. 2:16)

What Biblical Submission is NOT

Biblical Submission is NOT ...

Based on the Husband’s Superiority

† The wife is as *important* as the husband

- Gal. 3:28 – “there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus”
- Gen 1:27 – “male and female He made them in His own image”

➔ Equality of Essence and Worth

Biblical Submission is NOT ...

Putting your Husband in Place of Christ

† Col. 1:18 – Christ is to have 1st place in everything

† Husband is not to be an idol

Biblical Submission is NOT ...

Giving Up Independent Thought and Becoming Intellectually Stagnant

- † Col. 3:16 – “Let the Word of Christ dwell within you”
→ "you" is plural
- † Prov. 31:26 -- “Opens her mouth in wisdom”

Biblical Submission is NOT ...

Giving Up All Efforts to Influence your Husband

- † Eph. 4:15, 25-27 – “speaking the truth in love” wife also

Biblical Submission is NOT ...

Doing Nothing to Protect Yourself from an Unreasonable Husband

→ Authority and Protection

- † Government exists for the Punishment of the wicked and the Protection of the innocent. If a wife is in physical danger, she should not hesitate to call the police.
- † Pastors and Elders need to be willing to intervene and give advice → church discipline may be necessary

Biblical Submission is NOT ...

Based on the Husband's Worthiness

- † I Pt. 3:1 – “wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,”

What Biblical Submission IS

Biblical Submission IS ...

a Willing Choice “be subject to”

† *hupotasso* hypo = under tasso = to place
“arrange yourself under”

middle voice means the wife chooses to submit willingly

→ biblical submission is a voluntary release of rights

→ essence of Christianity

→ essence of Christ

Biblical Submission IS ...

a Spiritual Matter

† Col 3:18 → “as is fitting in the Lord”

- motive is obedience to God

imperfect (continuous) means an ongoing arrangement for the Marriage – binding principle of the Law of God

women who are “in the Lord” are characterized by this attitude and behavior

“Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them.”

Point – Your Supreme Duty as Husband – cf. **3:14!!!**

Deliberate attitude of the mind
Active and unceasing care for her well-being

Way beyond natural affection and seeks what is best for your precious gift from the Lord
→ sacrificial love

Background → Greeks, Romans, Jews – women were 2nd class at best, chattel/property in some cases

Proof – Because we men are thick-headed, God has to tell us twice.

With **2 Commands**: → do This → don't do That

1st Command: “**Love your wives.**”

Eph 5:25 – “Husbands love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”

2nd Command: “**and do not be embittered against them**”

antithetical parallelism – the opposite attitude and treatment

Opposite of: bearing with one another, forgiving each other
compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience

original meaning of “pointed” or “sharp”

III^a – used of water which has been made bitter (Rev 8:11) – wormwood 1/3 of the waters became wormwood “bitter”

point – do not call your wife “honey” then act like vinegar towards her

The command in our passage is for the Wife to Submit; NOT for the Husband to make her Submit!

Sacrificial Love is NOT ...

merely a Feeling
→ fall into it (like a hole) (or out of it – like a tree)

Sacrificial Love IS ...

→ a choice first, act of the will – obedience

Sacrificial Love IS ...

‡ Command to men – three times in Eph 5:(25, 28, 33)

Sacrificial Love IS ...

‡ GIVING – meeting needs – sacrificing for your wife

→ 2 Best Gifts to give your Wife:

1) Unwavering Walk with God

2) Unshakeable Confidence in the Sovereignty of God

Sacrificial Love IS ...

‡ the real test of masculinity

Appⁿ – “I’d die for my wife!” How about living for your wife, tough guy. How about dying daily for your wife, tough guy.

Sacrificial Love IS ...

‡ FIRST I Jn. 4:19 – “We love, because He first loved us.”

Husband = initiator – (“she doesn’t want my affection” – don’t only show it when you want something in return?)

Sacrificial Love IS ...

Giving up your desires, goals, plans for her needs and desires

- Phil. 2 – “Regard others as more important than yourself”
 - what’s more complete – your toys or her wardrobe?
 - your gadgets or things she needs

When you ladies first met Mr. Right, you probably had no idea his first name was Always.

Appⁿ – Men, No leader is “always right.”

Sacrificial Love IS ...

‡ IN SPITE OF FAULTS

When she fails – does something you don’t like

Rom 5:8 – “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Sacrificial Love IS ...

‡ VISIBLE → 1 Jn. 3:18 – “Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth” –

Appⁿ – all the kind words and fine wishes don’t replace actually showing love”

Sacrificial Love IS ...

‡ Col. 3:13, 19 – FORGIVING – without bitterness

Sacrificial Love IS ...

‡ **Eph. 5:26-27** – CHERISHING

Should be a positive influence

purifying and sanctifying - sanctify her holy and blameless

Eph 5:29 – “cherishes”

Literally “Warm her,” “Keep her warm”

a) “nourishes” → provide for her

1 Pet 3:7 – “You husbands likewise, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.”

- **Consideration** – “understanding”
- **Chivalry** – “weaker vessel”
- **Communion** – “fellow heir”

CONCLUSION

When the peace of Christ is ruling in our hearts, the umpire – this is the power that can make Husbands and Wives habitually forget their rights and remember their duties – starting in the home and there is true peace and true happiness → and do it joyfully

Today, in whatever life situation right where you are at, make sure you are doing your part fully and willingly