



The Epistle to the Colossians

Col 3:18-21 - Relationship of Wife, Husband and Children

• *Col 3:18 – “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”*

- The issue before us is *submit*; how do you interpret this?
 - Well, let’s first not ignore the second part of the verse – *as is fitting in the Lord*.
 - Indicative case – fact, and what *is fit in the Lord*?
 - » *is fit* is imperfect; thus *was fit* with continuing application is probably better.
 - » Simply a moral obligation?
 - The Greek is *submit yourselves*, and the tense here is imperative – do it!
 - Similar terms – *arrange under, subordinate, obey, subject oneself, submit oneself, yield to*.
 - » Constable – ‘This subjection rests on divinely prescribed authority, not on any inherent inferiority in spirituality, intelligence, worth, or anything else.’
 - » *Gen 2:18 - And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”*



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McCalley – ‘Her obligation is to him, but her motivation is from the Lord. This harmonizes perfectly with the concept of grace.’

» *Tit 2:5 - to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.*

–I honestly think that overall, this verse relates to the next verse, her husband’s responsibility – his spiritual leadership; but unfortunately for you wives this is not conditional!

•Col 3:19 – “Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.”

– Hey hubbies, what kind of *love (agape)* is this?

- This is not *eros or philia*.
- Whatever, this is present active imperative – do it and keep on doing it!
- How is this manifested?



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- Why is *being bitter (angry, indignant)* passive tense?
 - *Eph 4:31 - Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.*
 - How might this be manifested?
- Barclay – ‘Both under Jewish and under Greek laws and custom, all the privileges belonged to the husband, and all the duties to the wife; but here in Christianity we have for the first time an ethic of mutual and reciprocal obligation.’
- ***Col 3:20 – “Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.”***
 - Like it or not kids, *obey* is present active imperative – do it!
 - Children is *tekna* – youth, not infants or toddlers.
 - This is in part because the alternative, not obeying, has consequences.



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- *Rom 1:28, 30 - And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, **disobedient to parents,***
- *2 Tim 3:2 - For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, **disobedient to parents,** unthankful, unholy,*
 - » What seems to be the problem here?
- And notice *in all things*, and why?
 - Because it is *pleasing to the Lord*.
 - *Rom 12:2 - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that **good and acceptable and perfect will of God.***
 - But what if the parents are abusive?
 - This makes it difficult but *pleasing the Lord* is the bottom line.
- ***Col 3:21 – “Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”***



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- Why not mothers too?
- What does this *provoking* look like?
- What are some possible consequences?



- *that they become discouraged.*
 - to be disheartened, dispirited, broken in spirit
- Barnes – ‘Children should not be flattered, but they should be encouraged. They should not be so praised as to make them vain and proud, but they should be commended when they do well.’



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- *Prov 3:12 - For whom the Lord loves He corrects, Just as a **father** the **son** in whom he delights.*
- *Prov 4:1 - Hear, my **children**, the instruction of a **father**, And give attention to know understanding;*
- *1 Thess 2:11 - as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a **father** does his own **children**,*
- *And as adult heirs, the Lord is not finished with us either!*
 - *Heb 12: 5,6 - And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to **sons**: “My **son**, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens and scourges every **son** whom He receives.”*

So why fathers and what about mothers?