

## October 26: "Your Master in Heaven," Col. 3:22-4:1

October 19 (John gone): "Submit, Love, Obey," Col. 3:18-21: 18 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

**I. RELAX IN SUBMISSION:** 18 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Romans 12:10: In honor preferring one another Ephesians 5:21-22: Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**A. Submission**—as is fitting in the Lord—is the responsibility of every child of God. We are to submit to the civil authority. We are to submit to one another, preferring the other above ourselves. We are to submit always to the will of God.

**B.** Wives are being addressed here, not husbands. Husbands want to work this out, but they have a command next. Wives need to work this out "as is fitting in the Lord."

C. Hupotasso, "submit," means "to subordinate, to arrange under." It was a military term originally. It came to mean voluntarily "giving in, cooperating, and carrying a burden." The idea was to "be loyal" and "adapt yourself to the other."

D. Fathers often indulge their daughters. They treat them like princesses, catering to their every whim. Then the princess gets married. Suddenly she has to live with the competing will of another human being whose role is not father but husband.

E. Jesus "humbled himself." He submitted to the Father in everything: "Not my will but thine be done."

F. The sentence closes with: **as is fitting in the Lord**

Aneko has this sense of "moving up to" or "reaching." The idea is that there is a standard to which you are moving, for which you are reaching. That standard is the example and teaching of Jesus.

## II. CALM YOURSELF WITH LOVE: **19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.**

A. The men, fathers and husbands, are given a word of caution in each of the instructions specifically for them. Here it is "do not be harsh." The root is "to produce a bitter taste," "to make angry or indignant." (In vs 21 it is "do not embitter your children", "do not exasperate", "do not provoke," a different word than verse 19.) The word means "to produce a bitter taste in the stomach."

B. Love your wives. Love them like "Christ loved the church and give himself up for her" (Eph. 5:25-33). **28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.**

## Questions

What does "wives, submit" mean to you?

Where do you place your trust when you submit?

Why are men warned twice in the two sentences addressed to them?

Why would the discouragement of children be such a concern to God?