

Become a Christ-Centered Christian: Preaching from Colossians

Answer to God Every Day (6 messages)

"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.**

III. CHEERFULLY OBEY: 20 Children, obey your parents
in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

A. Grudging and irritated obedience is better than disobedience, but not the best.

B. Joyful and immediate obedience is preferred. The father and mother are not thrilled to see an angry child stomp away to carry the garbage bag to the disposal bin.

C. The Father in Heaven prefers an obedience out of love, not out of duty. But dutiful motivation is better than disobedience.

D. God is pleased to see children who obey their parents in everything—no disobedience behind your back, no change of behavior when away from parents.

IV. DO NOT DIS-COURAGE YOUR CHILDREN:

21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will
become discouraged ("Disheartened, dispirited, broken in
spirit")

A. Men are getting two warnings in these verses.

1. Do not be harsh with your wife.
2. Do not provoke and embitter your children.

B. Fathers sometimes use their physical size and deeper voices to intimidate and provoke their children.

James 1:20: **for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.**

C. "They will become discouraged." The word here is "disheartened, dispirited, broke in spirit.

D. Jesus was the supreme encourager, the forgiving one who lifted the sinful and sick from their place of defeat and gave them a new life. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out (Isaiah 42:3).

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?

DAILY JOURNAL PROMPTS

October 19- What does submission, love, or obedience look like in my life today?

October 20- How can I reflect Christ's love to my family today?

October 21- Where is obedience hard, and how can I trust God more there?

October 22- When I struggle with submitting to God or others, what might be at the root of that resistance?

October 23- Does my daily life reflect that I live for Jesus?

October 24- How can I show Christ's love by honoring and serving someone today?

October 25- Where have I seen God at work in my relationships this week?