

### **Life in the Christian Household**

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord.<sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.  
<sup>20</sup> Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord.<sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged.  
<sup>22</sup> Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord.<sup>23</sup> Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.<sup>24</sup> Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.<sup>25</sup> But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites. Masters, be just and fair to your slaves. Remember that you also have a Master—in heaven. Colossians 3:18-4:1 NLT

#### **1. Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Vs.18**

The Greek word for submit is “hip-o-tasso”

It is used in relation to entering into a relationship voluntarily with and attitude of cooperation, assuming responsibility and carrying a burden.

**“...as is fitting in the Lord...”**

This statement is a reflection of how we are called to walk in faith and in submission to our Savior!

*“Under the Influence: How Christianity Transformed Civilization” by Alvin J. Schmidt.*

#### **2. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Vs 19**

The FIRST issue Paul addresses is the **attitude and action** of the husband towards his wife!

Husbands are called to LOVE their wife FIRST with agape love.

- It is a love that loves when it is not loved back.
- It loves when it is rebelled against.
- It is a love that forgives when wronged.
- It is a love that is patient, kind and gentle at all times!

**Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud<sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.<sup>6</sup> It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.<sup>7</sup> Love never gives up, never**

**loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 1Corinthians 13:4-7**

**Husbands, we are called to love our wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... Ephesians 5:25**

*“Love and Respect” by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs. The love she most desires. The respect he desperately needs.*

#### **3. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. Vs. 21**

Do NOT provoke your children.

- Do not pit child against child.
- Do not have a favorite child.
- Do not constantly change the rules.

#### **4. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Vs. 20**

Scripture tells us the command to honor your father and mother is the ONLY commandment with a promise... that your days will be long upon this earth!

#### **5. Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than people. Vs 22-23**

Paul is telling us that we are to “obey in everything”, (unless it is sin), we are to “obey” so that our lives are giving witness and testimony to our faith in Jesus Christ.

#### **6. Masters, be just and fair to your slaves. Remember that you also have a Master—in heaven. Vs 4:1**

The principles that governed the lives of Christians back then is still the principles that governs our lives today –

Wives, husbands, children, workers, and employers --- All of us are called to submit, to love, to obey, to work, as doing it for the Lord --- so that our lives bear witness to God’s amazing grace and love to the lost people around us.