

GOD'S WORD TO THE WIVES

(Colossians 3:18)

Whatever happens inside your home concerns God, His gospel and His glory. Your family life is a reflection and expression of Christian discipleship. In fact, the way we live and conduct ourselves, whether married or single, indicates the level of our commitment to the Lordship of Christ. As we reflect Paul's domestic exhortation to the Colossian believers, we'll consider what God's Word says about marital roles and responsibilities. The focus of this lesson is on the biblical principles concerning the Christian wife's submission.

1. Submission is God's _____ to women in marriage.

The command to the wife to submit herself to her husband is God's authoritative Word, divine instruction and design for marriage (Col. 3:18). God has established the marriage roles of male headship and female submission even from creation. The fact that Adam was created first indicates the priority given to Adam as the federal head or leader (Gen. 2:7-8). And the fact that Eve was created as a helper suitable to Adam signifies her distinct complementary role as ordained by God (Gen. 2:18; Duet. 33:29; Ps. 10:14; 118:7).

2. Submission is God's call to imitate the _____.

The word submit literally means to put oneself under (Col. 3:18). It talks about the disposition to yield. Upon marriage, the Christian wife voluntarily takes the position of helper, instead of leader. The call to submission is not a mark of inferiority. Rather, it is a glorious and noble call to imitate the Lord Jesus in His subordinate role and joyful submission to God the Father (1 Cor. 11:3; Matt. 26:39; Heb. 10:5-7; 12:2). The wife's faithful submission to her husband is her obedience to God's call to be Christlike in her married life.

3. Submission is a heart attitude that brings _____.

The wife's submission to her husband is a heart attitude that is proper, fitting and honoring to God (Col. 3:18). Such attitude brings supreme praise and utmost glory to God. The phrase "fitting in the Lord" also indicates that the submission of the wife should be within the boundaries of what pleases God as revealed in His Word. Such submissive heart depicts the inward, unfading beauty of a godly woman which is precious in God's sight (1 Pet 3:1-5).
