



FOR PEOPLE ON THE GROW "Family Living" Colossians 3:18-21

No. 5034

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Paul continues his practical instructions by turning to the home life of the believer. He presents brief commands that he amplified in the Ephesian epistle, which was written around the same time.

I. Instructions to Husbands and Wives. vv. 18-19

A. Wives submit to your husbands.

1. Submission as a normal human experience. Romans 13:1
2. Submission as a particular Christian attitude.
 - a. To the Lord. Ephesians 5:22
 - b. To each other. Ephesians 5:21
 - c. To Christian leadership. 1 Peter 5:5
3. Submission as a wife's responsibility.
 - a. The husband is the head. Ephesians 5:23
 - i. The one into whom we grow. Ephesians 4:15
 - ii. The one out of whom we grow. Ephesians 4:16
 - b. The church submits to Christ. Ephesians 5:24
 - i. To cooperate with His desires.
 - ii. To be loyal to His leadership.
4. Submission as appropriate behavior.
 - a. Appropriate in Colossian culture.
 - b. Appropriate as Christian attitude.

B. Husbands love your wives.

1. Love as a normal human experience.
2. Love as a particular Christian attitude.
 - a. To the Lord. Matthew 22:37
 - b. To each other. Matthew 22:39
3. Love as a husband's responsibility.
 - a. Christ's attitude to the church. Ephesians 5:25
 - i. He gave Himself up for her.
 - ii. He cares for and feeds her. Ephesians 5:29
 - iii. He regards her as His Body. Ephesians 5:30
 - b. Husband's commitment to restraint.
 - i. Don't be harsh.
 - ii. Do be kind.

II. Instructions to Parents and Children. vv. 20-21

A. Children obey your parents.

1. Obedience as a normal human experience.
2. Obedience as a particular Christian attitude.
 - a. Man was made with a will.
 - b. So man is equipped with a won't.
 - c. Whether he will or won't determines his life.
 - d. Christians will to do His will. John 7:17; 6:38
3. Obedience as a child's responsibility.
 - a. Life without discipline is chaos.
 - b. Discipline is learned and not caught.
4. Obedience as a commendable attitude.
 - a. This pleases the Lord.

B. Parents (see Hebrews 11:23) don't embitter your children.

1. Beware the abuse of power.
2. Beware the misuse of privilege.
3. Beware the produce of discouragement.