

February 25, 2018
Colossians 3:18-19

The Supremacy of Jesus Christ and Family Life
Part 1 – Husbands and Wives

(Colossians 3:11, 17, 23; Galatians 3:28)

God's Instructions to Wives v. 18

(1 Peter 3:7)

What Submission is **NOT**...

*(Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2:3-4; 1 Peter 5:5;
Romans 13:1; Hebrews 13:7; Proverbs 31; Luke 2:51;
1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22)*

What Submission **IS** ...

Voluntary –

God NEVER tells husbands to make their wives submit!

Continuous

Commanded

A spiritual matter

Limited

The wife was created for the husband

(Genesis 2:18-22; Proverbs 18:22; 31:10-12)

Man, even in his perfect condition, was incomplete without the woman.

God's Instructions to Husbands v. 19

Love your wives

(Ephesians 5:25-33)

Do not be harsh with your wives

Do not make them bitter

(1 Peter 3:7)

Do not be harsh with them

This includes any form of abuse

This command “rules out any overbearing, tyrannical, or intimidating behavior toward the wife” (NIV Application Commentary, 245).

Questions for Discussion

1. Why do people misinterpret or misuse God's instruction to wives to submit? What disastrous consequences can it cause?
2. Why do you think people focus so much on the wife's responsibilities and neglect of the commands to the husbands?
3. What significance does the phrase “as is fitting in the Lord” have in the verse?
4. How can a husband obey the command to love his wife as Christ loved the church (Eph. 5:25f)?
5. How does verse 17 influence our understanding of these commands?
6. How can a couple, following these instructions, demonstrate the truth of the Gospel?
7. Where do you most need to improve?