

Colossians 3:18- 4:1 **Family Relationships**

18 **Wives**, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

19 **Husbands**, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

20 **Children**, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

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

22 **Bondservants**, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

Colossians 4:1

4:1 **Masters**, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Adam looked at the woman God had created for him and said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh, she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of man." [\[Genesis 2:22-23\]](#)

God said, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." [\[Genesis 2:24\]](#)

The man and woman were equal.

Wives

✠ **Wives**, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. [\[Colossians 3:18\]](#)

✠ **Wives**, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. [\[Ephesians 5:22, Colossians 3:18, 1 Peter 3:1-6\]](#)

✧ When sin entered the world through Eve, God placed the woman under the protective authority of her husband. [\[Genesis 3:16, Numbers 30:1-16, 1 Corinthians 11:3\]](#)

✧ Since the husband bears the responsibility for his wife before God, it is only proper that the wife respect his responsibility and submit herself to his authority as unto the Lord.

Chain of Command, Authority and Responsibility [\[1 Corinthians 11:3\]](#)

✠ God the Father, Christ Jesus the Son, Man the husband and father, Woman the wife and mother.

✧ Authority and Responsibility in relationships follow that established chain of command.

✧ God the Father is head of Jesus Christ, Jesus is the head of man, and man is the head of woman.

✧ Therefore the woman is under the protection of her husband's authority, the man is under the protection of Jesus Christ's authority, and Jesus is under the protection of God.

[\[Numbers 30:1-9\]](#)

- ✧ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. [Ephesians 5:23]
- ✧ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. [Ephesians 5:24]
- ✧ I only found one Scripture where the woman is commanded to love her husband. [Titus 2:4]

Husbands [Colossians 3:19, Ephesians 5:25-33, 1 Peter 3:7, 1 Corinthians 11:3]

✠ **Husbands**, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. [Colossians 3:19]

This command is amplified in Ephesians:

✠ **Husbands**, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.

- ✧ Husbands are commanded to love their wives with the example set by the sacrificial love Jesus has for the Church as He gave His life for her salvation.
- ✧ The purpose Jesus had to give His life for the Church was, that He might present her to Himself as a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
- ✧ This is the kind of Love God expects for the husband toward his wife.
- ✧ The husband should love his wife as much as he loves members of his own body.
- ✧ God called for the man and woman to become one flesh. [Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5-6, Mark 10:7-8, 1 Corinthians 6:16, Ephesians 5:31]
- ✧ Therefore, for a man to love his wife is to love himself.
- ✧ Paul then gives an illustration of his meaning of loving your wife as a member of your own body by saying, "For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church." [Ephesians 5:29]
 - ✧ When a part of your body is injured and causing pain, that hurting member has all your attention and care showing that you cherish it.
 - ✧ The same concept applies to the wife, when she is hurting, she deserves all your attention demonstrating that you cherish her as much as you cherish your thumb that was struck by the hammer.
 - ✧ **Jesus loved the Church so much that He gave His body to be crucified for her while she hated Him.**
 - ✧ Do you love your wife that much?
- ✧ Our Creator said, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." [Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5-6, Mark 10:7-8, 1 Corinthians 6:16, Ephesians 5:31]
- ✧ Paul said, "This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church."
- ✧ We as the Church are all individually members of the body of Christ.
- ✧ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself.
- ✧ And let the wife see that she respects her husband.
- ✧ This is the right attitude each Husband must have toward his wife if he desires to please God that his prayers may not be hindered. [1 Peter 3:7]
- ✧ God is watching how we behave toward the women God entrusted us with, and to abuse her will block our prayers from getting through. [Malachi 2:13-15]

Children [Colossians 3:20]

✠ **Children**, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. [Colossians 3:20]

This command is amplified in Ephesians:

✠ **Children**, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. [Ephesians 6:1-3]

- ✧ "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:
 - ✧ "That it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." [Ephesians 6:3, Exodus 20:12]

- ✧ Godly children are expected to fully obey godly parents because it is the right thing to do.
- ✧ The promise attached to the command is the promise God gave the Children of Israel for obeying His commandments. [Exodus 20:12]
- ✧ The commandment was originally in connection with the laws of righteousness given to a godly nation, the Ten Commandments which are the basis of God's moral Law.

Fathers [Colossians 3:21]

✧ **Fathers**, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. [Colossians 3:21]

This command is amplified in Ephesians:

✧ **Fathers**, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. [Ephesians 6:4]

- ✧ The responsibility for righteous training falls on the father.
- ✧ It begins with the father teaching his children the ways of the Lord.
- ✧ It includes consideration toward the feelings and emotions of the children so as not to unduly provoke them to wrath.
- ✧ Godly parenting begins at birth of the Child and is reinforced by the righteous and loving gentle example of the parents.
- ✧ Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. [Proverbs 22:6 KJV]
- ✧ He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly. [Proverbs 13:24 NKJV]
- ✧ It is possible to be so harsh with children that they become discouraged feeling there is no way to please the parent.
- ✧ Firm gentleness is the best approach, correct as needed for the purpose of instruction, not as a means of dominance over them. Abuse of wife or children is never appropriate.
- ✧ Begin at birth and reinforce as the children grow, gentle but firm instruction works well especially if it is consistent and in agreement with Scripture.

Servants (Employees) [Colossians 3:22-25]

✧ **Bondservants**, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. [Colossians 3:22]

- ✧ Family and social relationships extend to the work place.

This command is amplified in Ephesians:

✧ Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ. [Ephesians 6:5-8]

- ✧ Servants (employees) who are believers, are expected to do their work as though they were in direct service to the Lord.
- ✧ Their conduct is not focused just to please men, but from the heart to do the will of God.
- ✧ We have the assurance that from the Lord we will receive our reward.
- ✧ God does not show favoritism based on whether we are slave or free.
- ✧ We are all considered bondservants of Christ.
- ✧ And **whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord** and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. [Colossians 3:23-24]
- ✧ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality. [Colossians 3:25]

Colossians 4:1

Masters (Employers) [Colossians 4:1]

✧ **Masters**, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. [Colossians 4:1]

- ✧ Employers need to be aware that God is watching them as much as He is the employee.

This command is amplified in Ephesians:

✠ Masters (employers) are expected to behave as servants of the Lord toward their employees.

[\[Ephesians 6:9\]](#)

✧ They are to consider the employee as a fellow servant of the Lord.

✧ Treat the employee with gentleness without threatening.

✧ Keep in mind that your own Master is in Heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.