

Colossians 3:18-21 – Family.

I. (18) Wife – Submission.

God created marriage for: Companionship, Procreation, Pleasure and Protection of children – to His glory.

God has placed the husband in the position of responsibility and authority, on His behalf.

***1 Corinthians 11:3** - But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.*

“Head” does not mean male dominance, where a man lords it over a woman and demands her unquestionable obedience to his every wish and command. “

Submit is essentially a word borrowed from the military. It literally means “to be under in rank.” The wife may be more skilled, higher income, stronger personality...

Wives, submission is an expression of your love to your husband and submission to the Lord.”

It honors God’s Word and His order of authority.

- i. Be a companion.

***Genesis 2:18** - And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”*

- ii. Allow them to lead.

“A man deeply needs the woman in his life to respect/honor (due regard) his knowledge, opinions, decisions and space/privacy... in communication and conduct.”

“It means valuing his opinion, admiring his wisdom and character, appreciating his commitment to you, and considering his needs and values.”

***Ruth 1:16-17** - But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me.”*

II. Husbands – Love.

A husband must **love (agape)**, his wife – sacrificial, giving, absorbing, love...

- It is a love that is unchanging, received or rejected.
- It is a love that is self-sacrificing.
- It is love given to the undeserving and appreciating.
- *It is love that does not demand or expect reciprocation.*

Not to be bitter (cruel and abusive) towards them: The husband may feel perfectly justified in his harsh or unloving attitude and actions towards his wife, but he is not justified – *no matter how the wife has been towards the husband.*

i. Serve.

1 Peter 3:7 - *Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered*

ii. Provide.

1 Timothy 5:8 - *But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

iii. Lead.

Ephesians 5:25 - *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,*

“And they must not be bitter against them, not use them unkindly, with harsh language or severe treatment, but be kind and obliging to them in all things...”

Endless compliments and praises, undivided attention, uninterrupted listening, continuous encouragement, humor, all round creativity, touch (pat on the back, hug and holding hands), gifts (lots of gifts), help, protect and defend, company (just being there), godly character...

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

III. Children - Honor/Obey.

Ephesians 6:1-2 - *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*

*“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.*

IV. Parents - Nurture.

i. Provide

1 Timothy 5:8 - *“But if any one does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever”*

ii. Train.

The Bible gives primary responsibility for teaching to parents; train (teach, instruct, mentor, encourage...) them mentally, socially, emotionally and in character development.

Proverbs 22:6 - *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*

If the family is a team, then the husband is “captain” of the team. The wife has her place in relation to the “captain,” and the children have their place in relation to the “captain” and the wife.