

INTRODUCTION.

TODAY, ~ WE BEGIN THE NEXT SECTION OF COLOSSIANS, ~ 3:18 - 4:1.

▶▶ In this section, ~ Paul lays down ~ precepts ~ for believers' relationships.

▷▷ TPID, ~ general rules ~ governing ~ a believer's relationships.

↪↪ Obviously not all. ⇔⇔ Some specific groupings

PAUL ALSO COVERS PRINCIPLES FOR RELATIONSHIPS ~ IN EPH. 5:21 - 6:9.

▶▶ He deals with the same groups ~ except for one.

▶▶ In Eph., ~ also deals ~ with relationships between ~ believers in general. ⇔⇔ Not Col.

AND THERE ARE OTHER DIFFERENCES ~ IN THE TWO SECTIONS.

▶▶ Gives more details in Eph.

IN ORDER FOR US ~ to get the fullest picture possible ~ of the precepts ~ governing these relationships, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ we're going ~ to combine the two sections, ~ and go back and forth.

▷▷ Today, ~ we'll look at Paul's commands ~ to believers in general ~ & to wives.

↪↪ 1 for general, ~ mutual submission. ⇔⇔ 2 for wives, ~ submit, ~ respect. ¶¶ 1/14

IN EPH. ~ 5: ~ 21, ~ A PRECEPT ~ FOR RELATIONSHIPS ~ BETWEEN BELIEVERS IN general.

VERSE 21a ~ STATES THE PRINCIPLE.

▶▶ Submit ~ to one another.

▶▶ Submitting to one another means ~ ¶¶

▷▷ having a mindset ~ of being ~ meek, ~ gentle, ~ and humble ~ toward one another.

▶▶ It consists ~ of a willingness to respect and honor ~ the needs of other believers, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ even giving them precedence ~ over our own needs.

▶▶ It also involves ~ a willingness ~ to serve, ~ to learn from, ~ and ~ to be corrected ~ ¶¶

▷▷ by any other believer.

▶▶ By nature, ~ I believe we are hard-wired ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to ~ promote ourselves, ~ to ~ build ourselves up, ~ to ~ look out primarily for ourselves.

▶▶ But ~ in the family of God, ~ that's ~ not the way ~ it's supposed to be.

▷▷ Jesus ~ makes this ~ quite clear.

WE SEE SIMILAR COMMANDS ~ THROUGHOUT THE NT, ~ SHOWING US ~ ¶¶

▶▶ how important ~ this mutual submission by believers is ~ and how much ~ Jesus wants us ~ to practice it.

▶▶ In the context of how believers are to treat one another, ~ Peter, ~ in 1 Pet. 3:8, ~ writes, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ "Finally, ~ all of you, ~ have ~ unity of mind, ~ sympathy, ~ brotherly love, ~ a tender heart, ~ and ~ a humble mind."

▷▷ Basically, ~ Peter is calling us ~ to live in harmony ~ and ~ to be united ~ in purpose and attitude ~ with our fellow believers.

▷▷ He is telling us ~ to share the feelings of our brothers and sisters in Christ, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ whether these feelings are ~ joyful ~ or ~ painful.

→→ As Paul exhorts us ~ in Rom. 12:15, ~ Rejoice ~ with those who rejoice, ~ weep ~ with those who weep.

▷▷ (Back) ~ He's exhorting us ~ to love our fellow believers ~ with Christ-like love.

▷▷ He is calling us to be deeply touched ~ and moved ~ by ~ ¶¶

↳↳ the hurts, ~ pain, ~ needs, ~ and adversity of fellow believers ~ and then act ~ to alleviate them.

→→ Compassionate hearts ⇔⇔ Crowd ~ Nain ~ Samaritan

▷▷ And Peter ~ is urging us ~ to be humble ~ toward our fellow believers. ¶¶ 3/14

▶▶ The importance ~ of mutual submission ~ is also observed ~ Rom. 12:10 (NIV) ~ ¶¶

▷▷ Be devoted ~ to one another in love. ~ Honor one another ~ above yourselves.

▷▷ Paul is calling us here ~ to love one another ~ warmly and genuinely, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ to be eager and to take delight ~ in honoring other believers, ~ ¶¶

→→ and ~ to give them more respect ~ than we give ourselves.

▶▶ And the importance ~ of mutual submission by believers ~ is clearly seen ~ in Gal. 5: ~ 13.

→→ For you were called to freedom, ~ brothers. ~ Only ~ do not use your freedom ~ as an opportunity for the flesh, ~ but through love ~ serve ~ one another.

OF COURSE, ~ WHEN IT COMES TO SUBMISSION, ~ JESUS ~ has set the example for us.

▶▶ Mk. 10:45 ⇔⇔ For even the Son of Man ~ came not ~ to be served ~ but ~ to serve, ~ and ~ to give his life ~ as a ransom for many.

▶▶ We see His servanthood ~ when He washed the disciples' feet ~ in the upper room ~ the night He was betrayed.

▷▷ Jn. 13:3-5

▶▶ And of course, ~ the most powerful demonstration ~ of Jesus' servanthood was ~ ¶¶

▷▷ when "he humbled himself ~ by becoming obedient ~ to the point of death, ~ even death on a cross." ¶¶ 4/14

SO WE SEE ~ HOW VITAL IT IS ~ THAT ~ BELIEVERS SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER ~ ~ 77

▶▶and ~ how much God ~ wants us to practice it.

→→And we also see ~ whose example of servanthood ~ we are to follow.

IN VERSE 21b, ~ PAUL SAYS ~ THAT IT'S ~ "OUT OF REVERENCE FOR CHRIST" ~ 77

▶▶that we ~ are to ~ "Submit to one another."

▶▶The idea here ~ seems to be ~ that ~ believers' respect for Jesus ~ will lead us ~ 77

▷▷to submit ~ to one another.

▶▶When we ~ truly ~ respect someone, ~ we care ~ about pleasing them.

▷▷And we don't want ~ to disappoint them.

↪↪And mutual submission ~ between believers ~ is pleasing to Jesus.

NOW LET'S TURN ~ TO THE FIRST ~ OF THE TWO PRECEPTS FOR A WIFE ~ in relation to her husband.

COL. 3: ~ 18a, ~ WIVES, ~ SUBMIT TO YOUR HUSBANDS. (Wives who are believers)

▶▶The Greek verb for "submit" ~ means ~ to voluntarily place yourself ~ under another person.

▷▷And, ~ as we'll see, ~ it is dealing with the leadership role of the husband. 77 5/14

▶▶ In the NT, ~ the verb "submit" ~ is consistently used ~ for subordination ~ to an authority figure.

▷▷ It can be used, ~ e.g., ~ ¶¶

↳↳ to denote subordination to ~ older people, ~ one's parents, ~ governing authorities, ~ and local church leaders.

▶▶ Basically, ~ Paul is calling wives ~ to voluntarily ~ recognize, ~ accept, ~ and yield ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to the authority and leadership ~ of their husbands.

WE'LL EXPLORE THIS FURTHER ~ AS WE GO.

▶▶ But at this point, ~ it might be good ~ to point out the following

▶▶ 1st, ~ Paul's apostolic injunction ~ does not imply ~ the inferiority ~ of the wife.

▷▷ It is a case ~ of voluntary submission ~ in recognition ~ of the God-appointed authority and leadership ~ of the husband.

▶▶ Furthermore, ~ the term, ~ submit, ~ does not suggest slavery or servitude.

▶▶ Also, ~ it certainly ~ never calls for the husband ~ to make his wife submit.

▷▷ If he could, ~ her heart ~ would not be in it. ⇔⇔ The Lord wants

▷▷ Besides, ~ Paul addressed wives here, ~ not husbands.

↳↳ It's ~ Wives, ~ submit yourselves ~ to your husbands. ¶¶ 6/14

▶▶ And, ~ in this context, ~ 77

▷▷ the word, ~ submit, ~ differs radically ~ from the word ~ 77

↳↳ which describes the role ~ of children and slaves ~ who are to obey.

→→ Verse ~ 20a, ~ Children, ~ obey ~ your parents.

→→ And verse 22a, ~ Bondservants, ~ obey in everything ~ those ~ who are your earthly masters

NOW, ~ BETWEEN COL. AND EPH., ~ PAUL GIVES ~ THREE REASONS ~ FOR THIS submission.

▶▶ 1st, ~ in Col. 3:~ 18b; ~ ~ 18a Wives, ~ submit to your husbands, ~ ~ 18b as is fitting ~ in the Lord.

▷▷ The phrase, ~ "as is fitting in the Lord," ~ denotes ~ a sense ~ of propriety.

↳↳ The resulting sense is therefore: ~ ~ ~ 77

→→ submit ~ in a manner ~ that is appropriate ~ for those ~ who are in the Lord.

↳↳ I.e., ~ believers.

↳↳ Paul is saying, ~ 77

→→ Wives, ~ willingly ~ recognizing, ~ accepting, ~ and ~ yielding ~ to the authority and leadership ~ of your husbands ~ 77

↳↳ is fitting behavior ~ for those who belong ~ to the Lord. 77 7/14

▷▷ Understood in this way, ~ and we'll get more into this as well, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ this clause ~ points to Jesus ~ as the pattern ~ of humility and submission.

▶▶ The 2nd reason ~ for this submission.

▷▷ In Eph. 5: ~ 22b, ~ Paul says ~ that this submission ~ is to be ~ "as to the Lord."

▷▷ This does not mean ~ that the wife ~ is to treat her husband ~ as though ~ he were the Lord.

▷▷ Neither ~ is it ~ an arbitrary capitulation ~ to a husband's will.

▷▷ Rather, ~ what Paul is saying ~ is that ~ this submission ~ is a means ~ of honoring the Lord. ⇨⇨ Submission = God-honoring behavior.

▶▶ In Eph. 5: ~ 23a, ~ Paul gives ~ the third reason ~ wives are to submit to their husbands.

▷▷ For the husband is the head of the wife. ⇨⇨ More time than the first two.

▷▷ Now, ~ Paul is not saying ~ women ~ ¶¶

↳↳ are second-class citizens ~ or ~ inferior to men, ~ or ~ that our wives ~ are our slaves.

▷▷ Paul is saying ~ that God ~ has set up a leadership structure ~ in marriage.

↳↳ And the husband, ~ not the wife, ~ ¶¶

→→ is the God-ordained leader ~ of the marriage. ¶¶ 8/14

▷▷ Wives who are believers ~ enjoy all ~ the privileges, ~ obligations, ~ and inheritance rights ~ of God's children.

↳↳ In Gal. 3:28, ~ Paul writes, ~ ¶¶

→→ "There is neither ~ Jew nor Greek, ~ there is neither ~ slave nor free, ~ there is no ~ male and female, ~ for you are all ~ one ~ in Christ Jesus."

→→ Being citizens of heaven ~ makes us all ~ united and equal.

→→ In God's kingdom ~ there is no spiritual ~ superiority ~ or inferiority.

→→ A man ~ is not more accepted in Christ ~ than a woman, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ nor is the Jew ~ more justified ~ than the Gentile.

→→ All citizens of heaven ~ share the same standing ~ before God.

▷▷ But God has set up leadership structures.

▷▷ In the church

▷▷ In relation to parents and children

▷▷ And in marriage

↳↳ And God calls upon wives ~ ¶¶

→→ to willingly ~ recognize, ~ accept, ~ and yield ~ to the authority and leadership ~ of their husbands. ¶¶ 9/14

NOW, ~ OBVIOUSLY, ~ THE SOCIETY IN WHICH WE LIVE ~ does not look favorably ~ on this doctrine.

▶▶ But ~ we ~ do not get our marching orders ~ from society.

▶▶ Our marching orders ~ come ~ from Scripture.

▷▷ As Acts 5: ~ 29 says, ~ "But Peter and the apostles answered, ~ "We must obey God ~ rather ~ than men."

THIS IDEA OF SUBMISSION ~ IS EVIDENT ~ IN JESUS' SUBMISSION ~ to his parents.

▶▶ Lk. 2: ~ 51 says ~ that Jesus ~ ¶¶

▷▷ went down with them ~ [i.e., with His parents] ~ and came to Nazareth ~ and was ~ submissive ~ to them.

▶▶ The sovereign creator of the universe, ~ the eternal Son of God, ~ the Second Person of the Trinity, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ took on flesh ~ and willingly ~ ¶¶

↳↳ recognized, ~ accepted, ~ and yielded Himself to the authority and leadership of His parents.

ALSO EVIDENT IN HIS SUBMISSION THE FATHER.

▶▶ John 5:30.

▷▷ I can do nothing on my own. ~ As I hear, ~ I judge, ~ and my judgment is just, ~ because ~ I seek not my own will ~ but the will ~ of him who sent me. ¶¶ 10/14

▶▶ Hebrews 10:5-7

▷▷ Consequently, ~ when Christ came into the world, ~ he said, ~~ "Sacrifices and offerings ~ you have not desired, ~~ but a body ~ have you prepared for me; ~~ in burnt offerings and sin offerings ~ you have taken no pleasure. ~~ Then I said, ~ 'Behold, ~ I have come ~ to do your will, ~ O God, ~ as it is written of me ~ in the scroll ~ of the book.'"

▶▶ And of course, ~ Jesus' prayer in the garden, ~ LK. 22:42.

▷▷ Father, ~ if you are willing, ~ remove this cup from me. ~~ Nevertheless, ~ not my will, ~ but yours, ~ be done.

ACROSS THE BOARD, ~ BELIEVERS ARE TO FOLLOW ~ JESUS' EXAMPLE.

▶▶ We are to submit ~~ to ~ church leadership, ~~ to ~ human government, ~~ and ~~ to ~ our employer.

▶▶ Children ~ are to submit ~ to their parents.

▶▶ And wives ~ are to submit ~ to their husbands. ⇨⇨ Lord's leadership structure, not man's.

MOVING ON, ~ WE SEE ~ IN EPH. 5: ~ 23b, ~ ¶¶

THAT PAUL COMPARES ~ THE HUSBAND'S LEADERSHIP ~ OF THE MARRIAGE ~ WITH Jesus' leadership ~ of the church.

▶▶ For context, ~ start at 23a.

▷▷ "For the husband ~ is the head of the wife ~ even as Christ ~ is the head of the church, ~ his body, ~ and is himself ~ its Savior." ¶¶ 11/14

▶▶ Here Paul qualifies the husband's authority and leadership ~ 77

▷▷ by describing his headship ~ as patterned after Christ's headship over the church.

▶▶ Jesus' headship over the church ~ is expressed ~ by ~ his loving it ~ and giving his life for it.

WE, ~ HUSBANDS, ~ ARE TO LEAD OUR WIVES ~ LIKE JESUS DOES THE CHURCH.

▶▶ And how ...?

▷▷ Lovingly and sacrificially.

▶▶ Whoa, ~ that's ~ a pretty tall order ~ and heavy responsibility, ~ isn't it guys?

▶▶ And I've got new for us. ⇔⇔ Guys if we do this . . . ~ our wives

IN EPH. 5: ~ 24, ~ PAUL NOTES THAT ~ THE CHURCH'S SUBMISSION TO CHRIST ~ 77

SHOULD BE REPLICATED ~ IN THE SUBMISSION OF WIVES ~ TO THEIR HUSBANDS.

▶▶ Now ~ as the church submits to Christ, ~ so also wives ~ should submit in everything ~ to their husbands.

▶▶ Genuine believers ~ willingly ~ recognize, ~ accept, ~ and yield ~ to Jesus' authority and leadership.

▷▷ And Paul says ~ that this willing submissiveness ~ should be reproduced ~ 77

↪↪ in the submission ~ of wives to their husbands. 77 12/14

THE PHRASE ~ "IN EVERYTHING" INDICATES ~ THAT THIS SHOULD BE ~ ¶¶

▶▶ the prevailing tendency ~ of the wife toward her husband.

▶▶ It means ~ that a wife ~ should cultivate an attitude of ~ ¶¶

▷▷ affirming, ~ supporting, ~ & respecting ~ her husband's authority and leadership, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ without holding back certain areas ~ where she wants ~ to assert or maintain control.

NOW, ~ WE SHOULD POINT OUT ~ THAT ~ THE PHRASE ~ "IN EVERYTHING" ~ is restricted ~ as to ~ degree. ⇔⇔ Three examples.

▶▶ 1st, ~ just like with our submission to ~ the government ~ or employers ~ or even church leaders, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ there is a limit ~ to a wife's submission to her husband.

▷▷ Peter and the other apostles set the precedent. ⇔⇔ Acts 5:27-29

▷▷ If government., ~ employers, ~ or even church leaders, ~ demand we do something that would cause us to violate God's word

▷▷ The same principle applies to marriage.

↳↳ If a husband ~ demands ~ that his wife do something ~ that would cause her to violate God's word, ~ ¶¶

→→ she is to obey God. ¶¶ 13/14

▶▶2nd, ~ "in everything" ~ does not mean ~ that the wife ~ has to endorse ~ her husband's foolish decisions, ~ or ~ ¶¶

▷▷to show unquestioned acceptance ~ of everything ~ her husband does.

▶▶And 3rd, ~ nowhere does Paul suggest ~ that ~ submission of a wife to her husband ~ "in everything" ~ ¶¶

▷▷requires the wife ~ to be silent ~ in the face of abuse, ~ physical or otherwise.

▷▷Abuse ~ requires ~ outside help.

↪↪And no wife ~ should ever imagine ~ that ~ resisting abuse ~ violates ~ Paul's command.

NOW LET'S VERY BRIEFLY LOOK AT THE ~ 2nd precept ~ for a wife in relation ~ to husband.

EPH. 5:33b, ~ AND LET THE WIFE SEE ~ THAT SHE ~ RESPECTS ~ HER HUSBAND.

▶▶Pretty self-explanatory ~ except for this.

▷▷And I think ~ this is all we need to add here.

↪↪Paul is not thinking ~ of the kind of respect ~ that is earned, ~ but a respect ~ based on ~ one's position.

▶▶IOW, ~ then, ~ the way I see it, ~ is that Paul ~ is calling upon wives ~ to respect ~ ¶¶

▷▷the God-ordained leadership ~ of their husbands.

Focus on God & relationship w/ Him. ⇔⇔ When right w/ God Pray ¶¶ 14/14