

INTRODUCTION.

TODAY, ~ CONTINUE OUR STUDY ~ OF THE PRECEPTS ~ FOR RELATIONSHIPS ~ that Paul ~ lays out for us ~ in Col. 3:18 - 4:1.

▶▶ TPID, ~ general rules ~ governing relationships ~ between various groups. ⇨⇨ Wife . . . .

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

▶▶ He covers relationships ~ more in depth. ⇨⇨ Believer's in general. ⇨⇨ Combining . . . .

LAST TIME, ~ WE LOOKED AT THE PRECEPTS ~ FOR RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ~ ¶¶

BELIEVERS ~ IN GENERAL ~ AND ~ FOR A WIFE ~ IN RELATION TO HER HUSBAND.

▶▶ A little review here ~ of the main points ~ of these precepts..

ONE PRECEPT FOR BELIEVERS IN GENERAL.

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. ¶¶ 1/14

▶▶It also involves ~ a willingness ~ to serve, ~ to learn from, ~ and ~ to be corrected ~ 77

▷▷by any other believer.

▶▶By nature, ~ I believe we are hard-wired ~ 77

▷▷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.

### TWO PRECEPTS FOR WIVES.

1<sup>st</sup>, ~~ SUBMIT TO THEIR HUSBANDS.

▶▶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.

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

▷▷It can be used, ~~ e.g., ~ 77

↳↳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 ~ 77

▷▷to the ~ God-given ~ authority and leadership ~ of their husbands. 77 2/14

2<sup>nd</sup>, ~ RESPECT HUSBANDS.

▶▶ As noted, ~ Paul is not thinking ~ of the kind of respect ~ that is earned, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ but a respect ~ based on ~ one's position.

▶▶ IOW, ~ Paul ~ is calling upon ~ the Christian wife ~ to respect ~ the God-ordained leadership ~ of her husband.

### NOTE IN GENERAL.

▶▶ Leadership structures . . . . .

### THE MODEL.

▶▶ Jesus . . . . . ⇔⇔ The triunity of God . . . . .

THIS A.M., ~ WE'LL FOCUS ON ~ WHAT PAUL HAS TO SAY ~ TO A HUSBAND ~ in relation ~ to his wife.

COL. ~ 3: ~ 19. ⇔⇔ THERE ARE ~ TWO COMMANDS HERE ~ FOR HUSBANDS. ⇔⇔ READ . .

PAUL'S ~ FIRST PRECEPT FOR HUSBANDS ~ IS IN COL. 3:19a (CSB).

HUSBANDS, ~ LOVE YOUR WIVES.

▶▶ For this command ~ we're going over to Ephesians, ~ where Paul gives a much fuller picture.

▷▷ We'll be specifically ~ looking at ~ Eph. ~ 5:~ 25-30. ¶¶ 3/14

IN EPH. ~ 5: ~ 25a, ~ THE PRECEPT THAT A CHRISTIAN HUSBAND ~ IS TO LOVE HIS wife.

▶▶ Notice, ~ this is ~ not something ~ optional.

▷▷ Paul is not saying, ~ "Husbands, ~ if you feel like it, ~ love your wives."

↪↪ Command.

▶▶ Observe also, ~ there are no qualifications with this.

▷▷ Paul does not say, ~ "Husbands, love your wives ~ if they are X ~ or ~ if they do X."

▷▷ He does not say, ~ "Husbands, ~ love your wives ~ unless they . . . ."

▷▷ No, ~ it's ~ "Each husband, ~ love your wife, ~ period!"

↪↪ I.e., ~ Unconditionally.

▶▶ Furthermore, ~ we should note here ~ that the verb form Paul uses ~ 77

▷▷ is telling each husband ~ to continually ~ love his wife unconditionally.

↪↪ No expiration date.

IN EPH. ~ 5: ~ 25b, ~ WE FIND ~ THE FIRST ~ OF 2 WAYS ~ HUSBANDS ~ are to love their wives.

JUST ~ AS CHRIST ~ LOVED THE CHURCH. 77 4/14

IN EPH. ~ 5: ~ 25c, ~ PAUL EXPLAINS ~ HOW ~ JESUS LOVED THE CHURCH.

HE "GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR HER." ⇨⇨ He sacrificed his life ~ for us ~ on the cross.

▶▶ In Jn. 15:13, ~ Jesus said, ~ "Greater love ~ has no one than this, ~~ that someone ~ lay down his life ~ for his friends."

▷▷ He called us His friends ~ and loved us so much ~ that He ~ ¶¶

↳↳ willingly and unselfishly ~ sacrificed Himself for us ~ on the cross.

→→ The cross ~ reveals the depth ~ of Jesus' love for us.

▶▶ And we, ~ husbands, ~ are to have that kind of love, ~~ i.e., ~ selfless, ~ sacrificial love, ~ for our wives.

▷▷ Our love for them ~ is to be marked by ~ giving, ~ not ~ getting.

▶▶ Another way of putting this ~ is that ~ we are to have ~ Christ-like love ~ for our wives.

▷▷ Husband, ~ Paul asserts, ~ love your wife ~ with ~ Christ-like ~ love.

IN EPH. ~ 5: ~ 26-27, ~ PAUL INSERTS ~ A PARENTHETICAL COMMENT, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ in which he specifies, ~ two purposes ~ for which Jesus died.

IN VERSE 26, ~ WE SEE ~ THE FIRST PURPOSE ~ FOR WHICH ~ JESUS DIED.

▶▶ In order that ~~ he might ~ sanctify her, ~ having cleansed her ~ by the washing of water ~ with the word. ¶¶ 5/14

▶▶ The phrase ~ "having cleansed her ~ by the washing of water with the word" ~ ¶¶

▷▷ is simply ~ a poetic ~ and very vivid ~ way ~ of referring ~ to the gospel.

▶▶ Jesus ~ gave Himself up ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to cleanse the people ~ who would make up the church from their sin ~ and ~ ¶¶

↳↳ to set them apart ~ as God's special people.

▶▶ This cleansing and setting apart ~ takes place ~ ¶¶

▷▷ when a person ~ hears the gospel, ~ believes it, ~ and ~ is born again.

▶▶ This points ~ to the first stage ~ of our salvation.

▷▷ Jesus has ~ saved believers from sin and death, ~¶¶

↳↳ clothed us in His righteousness, ~ & ~ set us apart as His special people.

IN VERSE 27, ~ WE SEE ~ THE SECOND PURPOSE ~ FOR WHICH ~ JESUS DIED.

▶▶ Jesus sacrificed Himself for us ~ ¶¶

▷▷ "so that ~ he might present the church to himself ~ in splendor, ~ without ~ spot ~ or wrinkle ~ or any such thing, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ that she might be ~ holy ~ and without blemish." ¶¶ 6/14

▷▷I.e., ~ Jesus sacrificed Himself ~ so that ~ the church ~ 77

↳↳could be ~ pure and without a single fault or flaw, ~ with ~ no evil or sin or any other wrong thing in it.

▶▶This points ~ to the final stage ~ of our salvation, ~ which happens when Jesus returns.

▷▷I.e., ~ our glorification.

▷▷Phil. 3:20-21 . . . . (⇔⇔ 1 Jn. 3:1-3)

NOW LETS' COME BACK TO EPH., ~ AND APPLY ~ THE TWO PURPOSES ~ for which Jesus died ~ 77

▶▶to Paul's command ~ to a Christian husband ~ to love his wife.

▶▶Notice ~ Jesus' motivation ~ behind ~ these two purposes.

▷▷It was ~ to ~ save us ~ and ~ to glorify us.

▷▷IOW, ~ it was not ~ what ~ would benefit ~ Him.

↳↳His motivation ~ was ~ what would benefit ~ us.

▶▶Likewise, ~ the motivation ~ for everything ~ a husband does ~ in his marriage relationship ~ should not be ~ what ~ would benefit him.

▷▷It should be ~ what ~ would benefit ~ his wife.

↳↳Part of what it means ~ for a husband to love his wife. 77 7/14

AFTER HIS PARENTHETICAL NOTE IN VERSES 26-27, ~ PAUL GETS BACK ON TRACK.

IN ~ EPH. ~ 5: ~ 28a, ~ PAUL PRESENTS A ~ SECOND WAY ~ A HUSBAND ~ IS TO LOVE his wife.

▶▶ The first way, ~ stated ~ in [verse 25b](#), ~ was ~ just as Christ loved the church.

▷▷ Here, ~ in [verse 28a](#), ~ he says, ~ husbands ~ should love their wives ~ as their own bodies.

PAUL WILL EXPLAIN WHAT HE MEANS BY THIS, ~ BUT FIRST, ~ ¶¶

IN EPH. ~ 5: ~ 28b, ~ HE ADDS ~ ANOTHER PARENTHETICAL NOTE.

▶▶ He who loves his wife ~ loves himself.

▶▶ Though Paul does not spell it out, ~ we can surmise ~ that he is basing this ~ ¶¶

▷▷ on the declaration ~ that in marriage ~ husband and wife are one flesh, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ which he explicitly states ~ in [verse 31](#).

→→ Not covering, ~ but read [vs. 31 . . . .](#)

▷▷ So in [verse 28b](#) here, ~ Paul is saying ~ since a man and his wife ~ are now one, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ a man who loves his wife ~ with Christ-like love ~ is actually ~ showing love ~ for himself.

→→ She is as much a part of him ~ as his own flesh. ¶¶ 8/14



▶▶ But ~ there's something else ~ going on here as well.

▷▷ By loving his wife ~ with Christ-like love, ~ a man ~ is actually ~ promoting his own welfare.

▷▷ Solomon ~ expresses this concept ~ in a general principle ~ in [Prov. 11: ~ 17](#).

↳↳ A man ~ who is kind ~ benefits himself, ~ ¶¶

→→ but a cruel man ~ hurts himself.

↳↳ Kindness ~ benefits its giver, ~ because ~ the kindness ~ is returned ~ by its recipients.

→→ Cruelty backfires, ~ harming ~ its giver.

▷▷ So a husband ~ will benefit greatly ~ ¶¶

↳↳ when he loves his wife ~ with Christ-like love.

AFTER HIS SECOND PARENTHETICAL NOTE, ~ PAUL ~ ONCE AGAIN ~ GETS BACK ON track.

IN EPH. ~ 5: ~ 29a, ~ PAUL EXPLAINS WHAT HE MEANS ~ BY SAYING ~ ¶¶

▶▶ husbands should love their wives ~ as their own bodies.

▶▶ He says, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ For no one ~ ever hated his own flesh, ~ but nourishes and cherishes it. ¶¶ 9/14

▶▶ Although we can find ~ exceptions to this, ~ the normal pattern is for a person ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to lovingly and tenderly care ~ for their body.

▷▷ In fact, ~ people go to great effort ~ to care for the needs and comforts ~ of their own bodies.

▶▶ So ~ when Paul tells husbands ~ to love our wives ~ in the same way we love our own bodies, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ he is telling us ~ to lovingly and tenderly ~ care for our wives, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and ~ to give serious attention to ~ ¶¶

→→ and go to great effort ~ to provide for their ~ needs and comforts.

THEN ~ IN EPH. ~ 5: ~ 29b, ~ PAUL ONCE AGAIN SHOWS US ~ ¶¶

THAT THE MODEL ~ HUSBANDS ARE TO FOLLOW ~ IS JESUS.

▶▶ For context, ~ read all of [verse 29](#).

▷▷<sup>29a</sup> For no one ~ ever ~ hated ~ his own flesh, ~ but ~ nourishes and cherishes ~ it, ~  
<sup>29b</sup> just ~ as Christ ~ does the church.

▶▶ We husbands ~ are to consider ~ how Christ presently cares for his church ~ and then follow his lead.

▷▷ He lovingly, ~ tenderly, ~ and graciously ~ cares for his church. ¶¶ 10/14

▶▶ He also functions ~ as the head of the church, ~ and ~ exercises all the duties ~ that headship requires.

▷▷ But ~ He does it ~ with love, ~ tenderness, ~ and ~ grace. ⇨⇨ **Never the opposite . . .**

▶▶ Let each husband, ~ then, ~ follow Jesus' example in leadership ~ ¶¶

▷▷ and be wholehearted ~ ¶¶

↳↳ in ~ lovingly ~ and tenderly ~ and graciously ~ caring for his wife.

IN EPH. ~ 5: ~ 30, ~ PAUL GIVES THE REASON ~ JESUS TAKES CARE OF THE CHURCH.

BECAUSE WE ARE MEMBERS OF HIS BODY.

▶▶ The reason that Jesus takes care of the church ~ is because ~ every believer ~ ¶¶

▷▷ is individually a member ~ of his corporate body, ~ the church.

▶▶ Just as husbands and wives ~ are one body, ~ with the husband as the head, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ Jesus and the church are one body, ~ with Jesus as the head.

▶▶ Jesus ~ loves and takes care of ~ His own body.

↳↳ And therefore, ~ husbands ~ are to do the same.

→→ Each husband ~ is to love and care for his wife ~ because ~ she is a member ~ of his body. ¶¶ 11/14

OK, ~ NOW WE'LL GO BACK TO COL., ~ AND LOOK AT ~ THE ~ SECOND PRECEPT ~ FOR  
husbands.

IN COL. ~ 3: ~ 19b (CSB); ~ PAUL TELLS THE CHRISTIAN HUSBAND ~ not ~ to be bitter ~  
toward his wife.

▶▶ The command here ~ depicts action ~ that must ~ always ~ be avoided.

▷▷ So the idea here ~ is this.

↪↪ Husband, ~ always avoid ~ being bitter ~ toward your wife.

▷▷ That slams the door shut ~ on even ~ a little bit ~ of bitterness.

▶▶ Bitterness does nothing but ~ poison, ~ cause trouble, ~ and corrupt.

▷▷ We see in Acts 8, ~ that Peter ~ told Simon the magician, ~ ¶¶

↪↪ "For I see ~ you are poisoned ~ by bitterness."

▷▷ And Heb. 12:15 (CSB) says, ~ ¶¶

↪↪ Make sure ~ that no one falls short ~ of the grace of God ~ and ~ that no root of  
bitterness ~ springs up, ~ causing trouble ~ and defiling many.

BITTERNESS ~ IS NOT ~ AN INGREDIENT ~ FOR A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP.

▶▶ Not ~ an ingredient for a relationship ~ that glorifies God.

BITTERNESS ~ IS A CHARACTERISTIC ~ OF THE OLD LIFE/NATURE. ¶¶ 12/14

▶▶ Therefore, ~ it has no part ~ in our new life ~ in Christ.

▷▷ And it definitely ~ has absolutely no place ~ in a marriage.

NOW, ~ EVEN THOUGH HUSBANDS ARE PRIMARILY IN VIEW HERE, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ logically ~ this can be applied ~ to wives as well.

▶▶ Paul's silence here ~ regarding wives ~ is not a sign ~ that ~ they can be bitter.

▷▷ Bitterness ~ will ~ poison, ~ trouble, ~ and corrupt ~ a marriage ~ ¶¶

↳↳ from whichever side ~ it's emanating from.

IN EPH., ~ PAUL TELLS US TO GIVE ~ NO OPPORTUNITY ~ TO THE DEVIL.

▶▶ Bitterness ~ does just that.

▷▷ It gives him an opening ~ to attack a marriage.

"HUSBAND, ~ ALWAYS AVOID ~ ¶¶

▶▶ being bitter ~ toward your wife," ~ Paul instructs.

▶▶ Words from the Greek root ~ of the word used here ~ ¶¶

▷▷ occur ~ in other ancient Greek writings ~ to refer ~ to rulership ~ that is ~ ¶¶

↳↳ domineering and harsh. ¶¶ 13/14

▶▶Paul may be reflecting this tradition.

▶▶Col. ~ 3: ~ 19b ~ may thus be seen ~ as Paul's attempt ~ to explain ~ or even soften ~ the rights of the husband.

▷▷Husbands do not have ~ complete freedom ~ to act as they ~ wish ~ or ~ think best.

↳↳On the contrary, ~ we husbands ~ are commanded ~ to exercise ~ 77

→→our authority and leadership ~ within the parameters ~ that God has set up.

▶▶The God-given authority & leadership ~ that husbands ~ rightly exhibit in marriage ~ 77

▷▷is ~ not ~ to be carried out ~ harshly or selfishly, ~ but ~ lovingly, ~ tenderly, ~ and graciously.

↳↳And it is not ~ to be exercised ~ in a domineering manner.

### NOW A CLOSING THOUGHT.

WHEN YOU BOIL THIS ALL DOWN, ~ THE COMMAND ALONE, ~ ACTUALLY SAYS IT ALL.

▶▶Christian husband, ~ love your wife, ~ just as Jesus ~ loved the church.

▷▷He ~ gave up his life ~ for her.

LET'S PRAY . . . . 14/14