

Rooted in Christ – A Study of Colossians—Lesson 17

Women of Grace | GraceLife Church

Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. --Colossians 3:18

For this lesson, we will be completing a theology of marriage and looking at the role of the wife. While we will be covering a good deal of ground in this lesson, we won't be able to cover every circumstance that arises for a wife. If you need further counsel on your marriage, please reach out to any of our discipleship leaders or our counseling department at GraceLife Church: counseling@gracelife.ca.

Day 1—Read Genesis 2:7-25

1. How did God create man?

2. What was the purpose of creating man?

3. What was the mandate of God given to Adam?
 - a. From Genesis 2:20, what was Adam's dilemma?

 - b. How could he not accomplish the creation mandate alone?

4. How was the woman formed and for what purpose?
 - a. Does the role of the wife today differ from Eve's relationship to Adam?

5. What does God say about marriage in vs. 24-25.
 - a. When the Lord says, "for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh," what priority is He placing on the marriage relationship?

6. How does Genesis help us establish that marriage is between one man and one woman?

7. What is marriage a picture of?

Heart Check:

- Do you have a proper view of marriage?
- If you are married, do you see your role as your husband's helper? Or do you see him more as your helper?
- When it comes to relationships with your parents or children, do they take a back seat in your relationship to your husband?
- What is the danger of parents who refuse to allow their children to leave and cleave and children who allow the parents to interfere with the marriage?
- Does this mean that your parents never speak into your marriage, or that you never speak into your children's marriage?

Day 2—Read Genesis 3

1. How did the serpent deceive Eve?
2. What was the consequence of their fall?
3. From Romans 5:12, if Eve first took the fruit why is Adam held responsible?

4. What was the curse pronounced on the serpent?
 - a. What was the curse pronounced on Eve?
 - b. What was the curse pronounced on Adam?
5. How do Biblical roles stand in stark contrast to the curse?
6. Does Genesis 3 teach that problems in marriage are primarily due to the wife's failure to submit?
7. What is the promise in Genesis 3:15. Who is this speaking of?

Heart Check:

- Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-34, 40. What does Paul say about the gift of singleness?
- When dealing with those who are single but desire to be married, how can we encourage them and serve them so marriage doesn't become an idol.
- How can we help them see that even if marriage is a strong desire and the Lord is withholding it from them, that singleness is still a gift from His kind hand?

Day 3—Colossians 3:18

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1. This next section gives us a household code: how a Christian household should function. Why is Paul so concerned with how Christian households function?
2. Give a practical definition of submission (*hypotassō*).
3. Is submission a sign of weakness?
4. Ephesians 5:21 tells us to “be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.” Do these passages contradict one another? Why or why not?

5. Who are wives commanded to submit to?

6. What does it mean for a wife to be subject to (submit to) her husband?
 - a. Will submission look the same in every marriage?

7. Read Titus 2:3-5.
 - a. Paul tells older woman to teach younger women a number of things including how to love their husbands and to submit to them. What is the connection between love and submission?

 - b. Can an older woman teach a younger woman these things if she has not learned them herself?

 - c. In this passage, why are younger women to love and submit to their husbands?

 - d. How might a refusal to love and submit to your husband slander the word of God?

Heart Check:

- Can you have an intimate walk with Christ while disobeying Him in submitting to your husband?
- Read 1 Corinthians 7:4-5. Do you ever withhold sexual intimacy from your husband? How is this sin a lack of submission to Christ?

Day 4

1. Why is it fitting in the Lord for a wife to be subject to her husband?
2. Are there limits to a wife's submission? If so, what are they?
 - a. How is Gracelife and her civil disobedience a picture of how to graciously and lovingly obey Christ when we are asked to sin?
3. How do these passages describe a home with a wife who does not respect her husband nor submit to him?
 - a. Proverbs 12:4
 - b. Proverbs 14:1
 - c. Proverbs 21:9, 19

d. Proverbs 27:15

4. What is the connection between verse 17, "And whatever you do in word or deed..." and verses 18-22?

5. Read the parallel passage in Ephesians 5:22-24. How does this passage help you understand why is it fitting in the Lord for a wife to submit to her husband?

6. Does a wife's submission mean that she has less value or worth than her husband? See Galatians. 3:28.

7. Does a wife's submission mean that her opinions are irrelevant or that she is not as intelligent or capable as her husband?
 - a. What if she is more intelligent or capable in a given situation?

- e. How should a wife deal with sin in her husband's life?
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4. Read Ephesians 5:33. What must a wife make sure that she is doing?

 5. Why is this command such a difficult one for us to hear and obey?

 6. What benefits does a husband gain through his wife's submission?

 7. If you are unmarried, how can you encourage your married friends to submit to their own husbands?
 - a. How can you prepare your own heart to be submissive to your own husband should God give you one?

 8. What might happen when we detach verses 18 and 19 from each other?

Heart Check:

- What are some practical ways that we as wives can grow in submission to our husbands?
- Do you struggle with submission in your marriage? Why do you think that you do?
- How often do you pray for a submissive heart towards your husband?
- If your marriage is marked by conflict and strife, how you are contributing to it?
- How is your husband contributing to it?
- Are you preparing yourself now so that when you are an older woman you will be able to teach a younger woman how to love and submit to her husband?
- If you feel in any way that your marriage has deviated from Biblical roles as laid out in Scripture and is marked by on-going, unrepentant sin, please seek help.

Dig Deeper:

A Study on a Godly Wife:

1. Read Proverbs 31:10-31. List 3 things that make this woman an excellent wife.
2. According to verse 12, she does her husband good all the days of her life.
 - a. How does she exemplify this for us?
 - b. What are ways that we can imitate her example in doing good to our husbands?
 - c. What are some examples of doing evil to our husbands and not good?
3. Verse 27 says that she "does not eat the bread of idleness." How does this benefit her home?
 - a. How does idleness hinder our home, and as a consequence can hinder our relationship with our husband?
4. Read verse 23. How is a man's reputation affected by the character of his wife?
 - Read <https://www.chapellibrary.org/book/wresfg/a-wifes-respect>