

## **Rooted in Christ – A Study of Colossians—Lesson 18**

### **Women of Grace | GraceLife Church**

*Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart. --Colossians 3:19-21*

#### **Day 1—Verse 19**

*Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. --Colossians 3:19*

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1. What is a husband commanded to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is a husband commanded not to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In light of the command to wives in verse 18, what might be one reason that a husband might be embittered against his wife?
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. The word translated love here is *agapaō*. What does that tell you about how a husband should love his wife?

5. Read 1 Peter 3:7.
  - a. What does it mean that the wife is to be considered a weaker vessel?
  - b. What two commands are given to husbands in this verse?
  - c. What are the consequences of a husband's failure to live with his wife in this way?
  
6. Read Ephesians 5:25-32.
  - a. How is a husband to love his wife?
  - b. According to verse 29, what does Christ do for the church?
  - c. What is marriage meant to reflect?
  
7. What should a wife do if her husband is not loving her?

**Heart Check:**

- Dr. Street says that husbands are to be lovers, leaders, and learners. Are you serving your husband in such a way that he is growing in these areas or are you hindering him in any way?
- If your husband is not growing in these areas, commit yourself to prayer, finding verses in Scripture you can be praying for him.
- Do you often think of the responsibility your husband carries before God (remember Adam was held responsible for Eve)? What are you doing to encourage him or pray for him?

**Day 2—Verse 19**

*Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. --Colossians 3:19*

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1. The husband is the head of the home. Where does the husband's authority come from?
2. Who does the wife oppose when she defies his authority?
3. Does this mean a husband can do whatever he pleases without regard for anyone else?
4. Why do you think Paul wrote the command to husbands not to be embittered against their wives?

- a. What can wives do to tempt their husbands to bitterness? (Ultimately our husbands are responsible for their sin in being embittered, but you are also responsible for your faithfulness and obedience to God in not being a stumbling block (Matthew 18:7).)
  
5. Is there any way a wife can help her husband deal with bitterness? Use Scripture to support your answer.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Can a wife hinder her husband's desire and ability to lead in his home?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. If you are a wife, are you committed to the success of your husband in the leading of his household?
  - a. If you are not married, how can you encourage and pray for those married who God has placed in your life?

### Day 3—Verse 20

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

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1. What difference does it make in a home and to children when mothers submit to fathers and fathers love their wives?
2. Read Mark 10:13-16. How did Jesus view children?
3. Why are children to obey their parents?
4. Are there limits on a child's obedience?
5. What do these verses teach us about the importance of children obeying their parents?
  - a. Exodus 20:12
  - b. Deuteronomy 5:16
  - c. Proverbs 1:8-9

- d. Proverbs 20:20
  
  - e. Proverbs 30:17
  
  - f. Romans 1:30
  
  
  - g. Ephesians 6:1-3
6. From Deuteronomy 21:18-21, how serious is a child's on-going rebellion to their parents?

#### **Day 4—Verse 20**

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

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1. How does Ephesians 6:1-3 help you better understand this verse? What Old Testament passage is Paul quoting in these verses?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Obey means "to listen under parents." Why do children need this command?

3. What are the ways in which we can train our children to listen and obey?
  
4. Who is a child's obedience really to?
  
5. Why is their obedience pleasing to the Lord?
  
6. Does this verse apply to adult children or only to minor children who live at home?
  
7. How do the dynamics between parents and children change when the child marries?  
Are children still commanded to obey their parents? Use Scripture to answer.

**Heart Check:**

- Pre-teens/Teens, see "Dig Deeper" for a heart assessment.
  
- Parents, children are a stewardship given by God. Our responsibility is to raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Are you being faithful in your task as a mother to teach them God's ways? Have any worldly parenting philosophies crept into your home? What must you do to change this?

## Day 5—Verse 21

*Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart. --Colossians 3:21*

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1. This verse addresses fathers; does that mean that it does not apply to mothers as well?
2. Define *exasperate*.
3. List some ways that we can exasperate our children.
4. Why are we not to exasperate our children?
5. What does it mean to lose heart?





### **Dig Deeper:**

- Listen to Pastor John MacArthur on The Fulfilled Family:

<https://www.sermonaudio.com/search.asp?currSection=sermonstopic&keyword=The+Fulfilled+Family&keyworddesc=The+Fulfilled+Family&seriesOnly=true&sourceid=johnmacarthur>

### **A Heart Check for Pre-Teens/teens:**

- “Obey” in Colossians 3:20 is to listen under parents. Do you listen to your parents, or do you think they have nothing to offer you?
- Why do you think so many parents dread the “teen” years? Do you find you often butt heads with your parents? What desire is in your heart when this happens?
- Do you get angry at your parents' commands? When you get angry, who are you really angry at: your parents or God?
- Who are you really disobeying when you disobey your parents?
- Do you think that your parents don't understand you? How can viewing the fact that they were once teenagers who faced the same temptations as you help you better listen and obey?
- Do you willingly hide things from your parents? Why is this so dangerous? What might this tell you about potential sinful desires and idols in your heart?
- When your parents give you a command, do you really listen and try to understand, or do you just react?
- What is your thought life like towards your parents? Do you feed sinful thoughts or loving thoughts?
- Do you view their rules and boundaries as restrictive? What might they be attempting to rescue you from when they say, no?
- If you are having trouble submitting to and obeying your parents, do you think that you will submit to a husband if God grants you one in the future?
- How can your obedience to your parents prepare you for marriage, if the Lord wills?
- How can you approach sin in your parents' life while still having an obedient and submissive heart toward them?
- When there is constant friction and conflict with your parents, do you often ask, “what is coming out of me and why?” What do you love so much that you're willing to defy your parents? Freedom? Friends? Fun? Looking at what others have and wanting it?
- Most shows, movies, and books today have an unbiblical view of children's relationships with their parents, feeding an independent spirit in a child (think Disney movies, where are the parents!). Are you watching and reading things that feed an unbiblical view of your relationship to your parents and biblical womanhood? How can this affect you if you don't put it away?
- If you are having extreme difficulties in your home or even feel in danger, please reach out to an older woman.