When the Rubber Meets the Road

Colossians 3:18-25

May 17, 2025

3412 words · 18 min read

Sermon Summary

In this sermon, the focus is on the transformative power of Christ and how it impacts our daily relationships. Paul emphasizes the importance of reflecting Christ's character in our interactions, particularly within marriage and the workplace. The biblical principle of submission is discussed, highlighting the mutual responsibilities and respect within relationships. Wives are encouraged to submit to their husbands in a spirit of respect and cooperation, while husbands are called to love sacrificially and create a safe, loving environment. The sermon underscores the biblical foundation for these relational dynamics, challenging cultural norms and emphasizing the importance of honoring God in our interactions. The central message is to live out our faith in practical ways, allowing the love of Christ to shape our relationships and interactions. The application points include embracing mutual submission, fostering respect and love in marriage, and modeling Christ-like behavior in all relationships. Ultimately, the sermon calls for a Christ-centered approach to relationships that reflects the gospel in our daily lives.

Sermon Content

APPLICATION

Announcements:

Men's retreat. Thank you Tony and team

Ordination: Adam Przybylski

- [Tit 1:6-9 NKJV] 6 if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, 8 but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, 9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.
- Do you commit yourself wholeheartedly to the work of the ministry?
- Do you commit to shepherding the flock of God among you with integrity, service, and sacrifice?
- Do you commit to shepherding your family in the ways of the Lord?

 Do you commit to upholding the truths of the gospel with your life and words?

Introduction

Paul has gone from the grandeur of theological truths to the intricacies of personal transformation. In the beginning of his letter, he delves deep into the nature of Jesus Christ, affirming His divine essence and supreme authority over all creation. Through the sacrificial act of descending to the cross, Jesus accomplished our redemption, offering forgiveness for all our transgressions and abolishing the legal demands that accused us before God.

In this divine exchange, we are not merely improved but fundamentally changed; we are reborn into a new existence. This transformative work of Christ calls us to a radical reorientation in our thoughts and actions. We are summoned to discard our former selves with their corrupt desires and clothe ourselves with the new self, aligned with the likeness of Christ Himself.

As Paul unfolds these profound truths, he illuminates how they should permeate even the most mundane aspects of our lives: our daily social interactions and responsibilities. Our heavenly citizenship must inform and shape our earthly relationships, infusing them with grace, humility, and love modeled after the character of Christ.

- The marriage relationship
- The parent/child relationship
- The employee/employer relationship

☐ SCRIPTURE

Col 3:17 NIV - 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

□ Pastor Josh

There is no environment in which "whatever you do" will be tested more than in the family and workplace.

What Paul is about to write was revolutionary at the time. The seeds he planted would bud into a tree. And that tree's roots would ultimately shatter the idea of slavery, women's rights, and family. This is a book of indicatives and imperatives. Indicatives are statements of facts regarding us that are involuntary. Christ has redeemed us, saved us, wiped out the handwriting of requirements against us, given us peace with God, etc...

But then there are the imperative commands that are laid out relationally at

the end of this chapter. He defines these relationships in a state of reciprocity. That is, each party is given a Christian responsibility within their relationships.

In that time, wives had to submit to their husbands, but husbands had no level of expectation regarding their behavior toward their wives.

ЯЯ QUOTE

Socrates: Is there anyone to whom you entrust more serious matters than to your wife, and is there anyone to whom you talk less?

In Roman culture, the home was ruled by **Patria potestes - the power of the father.** The father could even go as far as putting his own children to
death if he saw fit, without intervention from the law. Slaves were subject
to their masters, but there was no code of ethics for how slave owners
treated their slaves; they just did as they pleased. Well, Paul changes all of
that with a simple stroke of his pen. What Paul does is he states that there
is an eternal truth that supersedes the prevailing cultural norms. We have
almost the opposite prevailing cultural norms today. That is why we must
address this text not with our emotions or cultural experience but as God's
Word that we are called into obedience

☐ SCRIPTURE

Col 3:18 NKJV - Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.



To the Wife

He starts off by mentioning the "S" word. A word that has been so derided by our culture that the mention of it makes people squirm in their seats. Submit: Not unquestioned obedience but rather designating a God appointed order in the marriage relationship: Before the Lord, men and women are equal in value, but different in roles. Biblical marriage is an "ordered equality."

IMAGE: Pastor behind a fortified pulpit.

☑ ILLUSTRATION

EXAMPLE: Dancing together [image].

The man leads and the woman follows. This doesn't mean the husband steps on her toes or that the wife doesn't enjoy the dance. Paul's example from Ephesians 5: A marriage is like a body, the two people become ONE flesh. But everybody has a head, and the head of the marriage is the man, and the head of the man is Christ.

- To the wives: submission. The family is the team: The husband is the captain. The wives have their position in the team, and the kids have their part.
- Submit military term to come under rank
- Not obey (like children and masters), but submit Submission does not equal slavery.
- To walk under the same umbrella, in ancient Greek, implies that this is a voluntary action, not something that's forced on a wife by a demanding husband. A wise and godly wife will understand God's order and see the blessing in submitting to their husband. Has nothing to do with whether or not your husband is right, but whether or not Jesus is right.

☆ MAIN POINT 1A

Submission is part of your Christian responsibility

Is part of your Christian obedience Your submission to you husband is part of your obligations and obedience as a follower of Jesus. If you're not submitting to your husband, you're not only struggling as a wife, but also as a Christian in that area of your life.

ŊŊ QUOTE — David Guzik

"This has nothing to do with your husband's intelligence, or giftedness, or capability. It has to do with honoring the Lord Jesus Christ."

The opposite of humble submission is blatant disrespect:

Nagging: Ladies, let me share some verses with you that might offend you, but if you listen, it will help your marriage.

☐ SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 21:9, 25:24, 19:13, 27:15 (Type Version)

Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

A continual dripping on a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike;

Ladies, don't nag your husband! Your lips and words have power.

☐ SCRIPTURE

Pro 31:26 NKJV - She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness.

Not a little Chihuahua who won't stop yapping and biting your heels when you walk in the door.

- Let me ask you: How has it benefited your marriage so far? Is your husband more focused and excited about your marriage, or is he discouraged, distant, and frustrated?
- I can tell you without an answer. Wives, use your words to build up and encourage your husbands. And in those times when you do have to tell him the truth about a shortcoming, do it in a way that doesn't insult his manhood: "Well if you weren't such a lousy provider..." "Well if you would get your act together we wouldn't be having these problems."

Now, before i start a riot, let me make one thing clear. Husbands, usually the expressiveness of a godly wife that comes across as disrespect stems from a greater and legitimate need and hurt.
 Chances are, there are some ways you have neglected your role in leading, loving, and cherishing your wife that have caused her to get to the point where she feels the need to verbally express these things.

- [Pro 12:4 NKJV] 4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.
- But the question still remains for wives... Do you want to be the crown that adorns his head, or the cancer that rots his bones? Do you want to be the throne of his pride or the thorn in his side?

☆ MAIN POINT 1B

Submission Is fitting in the Lord

To your own husbands:

- Not women to men in general. Women are not called to submit to men in general or in all arenas, but it is God's order in the home and the church.
- Fitting in the Lord: The Bible never commands absolute submission to another human. Our submission ends when there is a leading into sin.

Government Church Home

- No woman is obligated to follow her husband if he is leading her into anything that is immoral, unethical or unbiblical. You need to have a strong biblical knowledge of what is fitting in the Lord and what is just your own preference: According to the wife – the wife decides when something is fitting in the Lord.
- If Lot's wife had listened to her husband's direction, her life might have been filled with more sugar rather than salt.
- FITTING IN THE LORD: also has a second meaning. EXAMPLE: Wearing a tuxedo is appropriate when going to a black tie event or a formal, but probably not so relevant when going to the beach for the day. In the same way, if a wife says she is "In the Lord", then it is only appropriate to dress herself with respect and submission under the authority and leadership of her husband because it brings glory and beauty to Jesus.
- (Submission) It will save your marriage. Two examples in the Bible of major problems that took place when women led their husbands:
 Adam and Eve – Eve talked Adam into deliberately disobeying God's command, and as a result, Adam was cursed and kicked out of the garden.
- 1Ti 2:14 NKJV Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

God told Adam, "Because you heeded the voice of your wife." Gen
 3:17 Abraham and Sarah – Abraham knew God's promise for a son,
 but Sarah had a faith issue. She saw only the physical impossibility
 and talked her husband into having a son with Hagar, the
 maidservant.

• Well we all know what came from that. Ishmael and we've been dealing with those repercussions now for thousands of years.

APPLICATION

Wives, don't make your husband choose between pleasing you and obeying God. Don't be the wife who unintentionally keeps her husband from pursuing God's will because you don't like or understand God's directives in a moment. Wives, do you want to make your husband uncomfortable? Just tell him, "Whatever you decide, babe," then walk away with a smile on your face. Before you know it, he will be asking your opinion and wanting your help and praying more. Now that the weight has been shifted, he will realize just how heavy it is.

Single ladies, let this be a litmus test for you. The guy you marry will be the guy that you submit yourself to for the rest of your life. Can you respect him? Can you trust him? The 19th-century English novelist Mary Ann Evans, also known under the pen name George Eliot, wrote,

ΩΩ QUOTE

— Mary Ann Evans

"A woman dictates before marriage in order that she may have an appetite for submission afterwards."

☆ MAIN POINT

To the Husband

Husbands: How to you respond to this great challenge and calling to your wife to submit to you. What can you do to make the job of submission easy and joyous for your wife? One author writes, "Submission is not about authority and it is not obedience; it is all about relationships of love and respect." And guess what husbands... You are the one responsible for tilling the relational ground of your marriages and for creating an environment where your wife feels safe and happy to place herself under you.

☐ SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:19 (Type Version) Husbands, love your wives and do

not be bitter toward them.

Unique to the day. Other household rules given by philosophers never had this instruction to husbands.

It's a protection clause. In fact, in the Bible's instructions to married couples, there is more instruction to the husband than to the wife.

- Husbands, are you having trouble with your wife submitting to your leadership? Part of that reason might be because you have not demonstrated to your wife through your words and actions the selfsacrificing love of Jesus. You haven't given her any good reason to trust your decisions or judgment because you've mostly acted out of your own self-interest. \
- You see, a man who leads with the love of Christ is a joy to submit to.
 Husband, you may not be a dream to submit to. What if you had a clone of yourself that you had to submit to and follow every day?
 Would that be an easy task for you?

☆ MAIN POINT 2A

Love: Requires self-sacrifice:

The word love that is used here is the word agape in the Greek. It's
hard to define Agape, but in the greater context, agape is: A love that
involves self-sacrifice and self-denial for the benefit of another. This
is the love that God had for us:

- PhI 2:5-8 NKJV Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
- This is how Jesus demonstrated His love for us. He denied His rights as God so that we could receive from His work.
- Ephesians 5 tells husbands, "Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her."
- You see, we as the church are the Bride of Christ. And sometimes we
 are not a very beautiful of worthy bride. But despite or imperfections,
 weaknesses and sin, he still demonstrated His love for us.
- Rom 5:8 NKJV But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- You see, husbands, the kind of love you are to give to your wife is a
 love that is demonstrated. Requires patience and understanding:
 Husbands, your wife might have blind spots, she might have had
 some emotional damage from past experiences, and she might be

weaker than you in many things. But just as your wife's submission is not dependent on you but her obedience to the Lord, your love cannot be dependent on your wife but on your obedience to the Lord.



1 Peter 3:7 - [7] You husbands, in the same way, live with your wives according to knowledge, giving honor to the woman as to the weaker vessel, as also being joint heirs of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

∫∫ QUOTE — Pastor Josh

Your wife's weakness that makes you bitter was designed by God to make you better.

How often have you heard God speak and did nothing because you were afraid? How many times have you complained against God? How many times have you hurt God's heart with your lack of honor or respect? What is His response? "I love you." My wife always tells me this simple, true statement, "I just need a hug." Though that hug might hurt you, just like Jesus, sometimes your bride's healing comes at the expense of your pain, and that's the way it should be. Guys, we must learn how to look past emotional responses and see that there is a deeper need crying out,

saying, "I need you to love me in my weakness and insecurity. I need you to understand that there are deeper issues that need to be addressed and dealt with." Requires Faithfulness and Commitment: Men, you are called to "lead," not "leave."

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 27:8 (ESV) [8] As a bird that wanders from her nest, so is a man who wanders from his home.

The response of most husbands when facing conflict in their marriage is to ignore it and distance themselves by pouring their time, energy, and efforts into other things that inflate their egos. They feel neglected and frustrated at home, so they go to the strip club or look at pornography. Or they spend extra time at the office with that secretary who just thinks they are the best guy in the world. Or they come home and turn on the game, or go straight into their hobby, in order to avoid the conflict.

Husbands, I'm just going to say this once... Man up! Go home and deal with the situation. Let your wife know that it matters to you. Love her even if she is unlovable at the time. Stop running away and show your wife that she married a man, not a little selfish boy!

☆ MAIN POINT 2E

Requires Forgiveness (Do not be bitter)

Bitterness builds walls. It's easy to become bitter if your wife doesn't respect you. If she is always talking down to you or won't trust you. It's easy to become bitter and resentful toward your wife. You need to learn how to let it go.

Last week: forgive just as Christ has forgiven you.

Perspective: You see, guys, initially we like the thought of our wives structuring their lives around us. But you only like that thought because you think like a selfish man, not a godly man. Yes, our wives are to structure their lives around us, but we are to structure our lives, not around our dreams and desires, but around God's will and our family's best interest. I promise you guys, show your wife that you are serious about following God and loving her, and it will make it much easier for her to submit to you.



To the children & parents

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:20 (Type Version) Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

All the kids should hear this. Especially in the day that we live in. We live in a culture that praises and promotes rebellion and independence.

Obedience is fortified by honor - honor your father and mother - Ephesians - first commandment with promise - long life on the earth.

☐ SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 30:17 (NIV) - [17] "The eye that mocks at his father, and scorns obedience to his mother: the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, the young eagles shall eat it."

Jesus honored Mary at the cross by ensuring her care for John.

APPLICATION

Obey - To Listen Under

Do you listen - listen with he intent of receiving and following. Why listen:

- 1. Your parents sacrificed for you
- 2. It pleases the Lord this is well pleasing to the Lord.
- 3. It will create an attitude that will benefit you in life humility, the ability to listen and learn.

Fathers - do not provoke your children to wrath

Children need discipline, and often that comes from the hand of a father:

☐ SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 22:15 (ESV) [15] Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

Children look to their parents, but especially their fathers, for acceptance, validation, and direction as they grow in this world. Just as we are the bride of Christ, we are also the children of God. So, as men, Jesus gives us the example of how to love our wives, but the Father also gives us the example of how we are to treat our kids. Col 3:21 NIV - Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

It's easy for fathers to be extremely hard on their kids by setting unrealistic expectations that their kids can't meet and then getting visibly frustrated when they don't meet them. This creates a mentality within a child of feeling like they can never be good enough for their dad.

 Dad is never proud of me, but he's always angry at me. He never praises me or acknowledges my successes, but he always chides me for my failures.

- There are no perfect fathers on earth, but we should strive to be the example of Christ to our kids. There are times when discipline has to come, but think about how God Fathers us. He accepts us, though we don't deserve it. He allows us to help him even though we usually mess things up. He disciplines us, then forgives us for even the most heinous sins.
- He came down from His world so that he could enter into ours. He strengthens us when we feel weak, he affirms us when we feel dejected, he encourages us when this world has brought us down, he loves us through our weaknesses. Dads, you don't want kids who go through life discouraged because you were not willing to show them a little grace and invest a little time.

Discussion Questions

- 1. How does the concept of submission in marriage, as outlined in Colossians 3:18, challenge modern cultural norms and individual autonomy? How can we reconcile this biblical teaching with societal expectations of equality and independence within marriage?
- 2. Reflecting on the reciprocity of Christian responsibilities in relationships, how can the principles of mutual submission, love, and respect enhance marital dynamics and foster a stronger bond between spouses?
- 3. In what practical ways can husbands create an environment of love, trust, and safety within the marriage, as instructed in Colossians 3:19? How

does the example of Christ's sacrificial love guide husbands in their role as leaders in the family?

- 4. How does the biblical concept of submission differ from notions of subjugation or inferiority? How can individuals ensure that submission is rooted in reverence for God's design rather than cultural conditioning or personal preferences?
- 5. Considering the broader societal implications of biblical teachings on marriage and family dynamics, how can the church engage with contemporary issues such as gender equality, mutual respect, and the sanctity of marriage while remaining faithful to the Word of God?
- 6. As a single person or someone preparing for marriage, how can you apply the principles of submission, love, and respect in your current relationships or future marriage? How can these teachings influence your expectations and attitudes towards partnership and leadership roles within a Christian marriage?

Additional Resources



Small Group Guide

Use the discussion questions above to guide your small group conversation.



Personal Study

Take time to reflect on the questions and write down your thoughts.

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