

**BOOK OF COLOSSIANS**  
**A BELIEVER'S LIFE UNDER CHRIST**  
**COLOSSIANS 3:17-25; 4:1; EPHESIANS 5:21-32; 6:1-9**

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**INTRODUCTION**

We last saw in verse 17 how that we who have believed on Christ are to have a God honoring consistency in our lives. (i.e. **We should be revealing Christ consistently in our lives!**)

As Believers, **we represent Christ at all times—wherever we go, in whatever we do, and in whatever we say.**

**"Word or deed"** takes in everything! **Our lips and our lives!** There is to be no such thing as dividing of **our spiritual lives** from **our secular lives** because **we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God** after we are saved and **that makes our whole lives spiritual!** Everything we **say or do** is to be done **"in the name of the Lord Jesus."**

Now, what does it mean to **"do all in the name of the Lord Jesus"**? The expression, **"in the name of the Lord Jesus,"** means **"under the authority and approval of Him."** (i.e. **We are to seek His direction** in ALL that we say and do! – Cf. **Proverbs 3:5-6**)

(Illustration: *Gypsy woman throwing stick up in the air to find which direction to go.*)

A lot of folks do that with the Lord too! **They don't like the clear answer that the Lord gives them from His Word about what they should do or the direction they should go,** so they use **their own devices** to justify going in their own direction! They say, **"I felt led of the Lord"** to do this or that! But listen, the Lord doesn't lead contrary to the clear direction from His Word! So, is what you're saying you feel led of the Lord to do line up with the Word of God?

Verses 18 through the end of Chapter 3 and even into the beginning of Chapter 4 give some practical application of this truth to Wives, Husbands, Children, Fathers, Servants, and Masters.

**I. A WIFE'S LIFE UNDER CHRIST.**  
**(Vs 18; Cf. Ephesians 5:21-24, 33b)**

We begin with the wife because that is where Paul begins.

**A wife's responsibility is to submit to her husband.**  
**i.e. She is to recognize and follow her husband's leadership.**

Let me explain why this is not always an easy thing to do.

We were warned of a problem back in *Genesis 3:16*—**"...thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee."**

That phrase means **"Your desire will be to be over your husband, but he will rule over you."** In other words, **part of the curse, part of the punishment for sin, is that there will be a struggle for power between husband and wife.**

Because the husband is usually physically stronger, he will usually win the physical battles. But Paul says that now that we are believers in Christ, this has all changed. As we go back to Eden, **back to how God originally intended marriage to be before sin messed it up.** We see **that the wife was created with a special purpose—to work beside her husband and help him.** To be a **"help meet"** meaning a help **that was suitable for him!**

So, what does this submission look like in real life? **Paul says the wife should submit to her husband, the same way the Church is suppose to submit to Christ.** (*Ephesians 5:24*)

How does she do that? Part of this is **recognizing and respecting her spouse's position as head of the family.**

*Ephesians 5:33* says, a wife must **reverence** or **respect** her husband. That is very important. Men need that. **A big part of the submission is done willingly, joyfully, and out of love.** I have known many Christian women who **want to submit to their husband and even enjoy submitting to his leadership.** They know and have learned that it is best for them, best for their husbands and best for the family unit!