

RENEWING YOUR MARRIAGE IN CHRIST

Colossians 3:18-19

You are becoming more and more like your Creator and you will understand him better. ¹¹ It doesn't matter if you are a Greek or a Jew, or if you are circumcised or not. You may even be a barbarian or a Scythian, and you may be a slave or a free person. Yet Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.
Colossians 3:9-11 (CEV)

1. Wives submit to their husbands.

¹⁸ Wives, place yourselves under your husbands' authority. This is appropriate behavior for the Lord's people. Colossians 3:18 (GW)

- a. Women are not called to submit to men. Christian wives are called to submit to their husbands.
- b. Submission is a choice. Coercion is not a choice.
- c. It is a choice that honors God. " *This is appropriate behavior for the Lord's people.*"
 - i. It recognizes hierarchy. (Cf. Colossians 1:15-19; 1:25; 2:5; 2:10; 2:15; 2:19; 4:1.)
 - ii. It elevates respect. (Cf. 1 Peter 2:11 - 3:16.)
 - iii. It demonstrates strength.

⁵ Think the same way that Christ Jesus thought:

⁶ Christ was truly God. But he did not try to remain equal with God.

⁷ Instead he gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us.

⁸ Christ was humble. Philippians 2:5-8 (CEV)

2. Husbands love their wives and reject harshness.

¹⁹ *Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.*
Colossians 3:19 (NRSV)

- a. Husbands love their wives as Christ loves the church.

²⁵ *And you husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her.*
Ephesians 5:25 (NLT)

- b. Loving is a choice.

² *Let love be your guide. Christ loved us and offered his life for us as a sacrifice that pleases God.* Ephesians 5:2 (CEV)

- c. It is a choice that honors God.

- i. It recognizes hierarchy.

³ *A man is responsible to Christ, a woman is responsible to her husband, and Christ is responsible to God.*
1 Corinthians 11:3 (NLT)

- ii. It elevates respect.

Love does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NIV)

- iii. It demonstrates strength.

⁵ *Think the same way that Christ Jesus thought:*

⁶ *Christ was truly God. But he did not try to remain equal with God.*

⁷ *Instead he gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us.*

⁸ *Christ was humble.* Philippians 2:5-8 (CEV)

RENEWING YOUR MARRIAGE IN CHRIST

Discussion Questions

1. How does the phrase "*this is appropriate behavior for the Lord's people*" Colossians 3:18 (GW) change the value of submission?
2. What would a wife's submission "*that is appropriate behavior for the Lord's people*" look like? What would it not look like?
3. Read the passages which allude to hierarchy in Colossians (Colossians 1:15-19; 1:25; 2:5; 2:10; 2:15; 2:19; 4:1). What role did it play for Christ? For Paul? How do you view hierarchy?
4. *Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.* Colossians 3:19 (NRSV) Why do you think husbands were given both directives?
5. What should husbands learn from Christ's modeling? (See all scriptures under point 2.)