

Marriage in Christ

Colossians 3:18-19 (ESV) Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

Marriage in Christ is intended to be a loving relationship expressed in humility.

Marriage in Christ for wives includes submitting to your husbands

1. What submission **is not**:

- a. Inferiority
 - i. Galatians 3:28 (ESV)
 - ii. Genesis 2:18 (ESV)
- b. Obedience
 - i. Colossians 3:20, 22 (ESV)
 - ii. Obedience indicates that one party issues orders to be followed by another...this is not the relationship the Bible has in mind
- c. Husband-on-top hierarchy
 - i. Husband must submit to:
 1. Leaders in the church – Hebrews 13:17
 2. Employers – 1 Peter 3:7
 3. Government – Romans 13:1
 4. God – Hebrews 12:9
 - ii. God is the top – Acts 5:29

2. What submission **is**:

- a. Voluntary - Moo: "voluntarily put oneself under the authority or direction of someone or something else"
- b. "Fitting in the Lord" – submission is rooted in the Lord, this is how those in Christ ought to behave
- c. Flexible – submission may take many different forms and look different in various cultures, societies, time periods, and relationships

Marriage in Christ for husbands is loving your wives

1. What loving your wife is not:

- a. Coercive
 - i. men are never commanded to rule over their wives, just to love them
 - ii. submission is voluntary and cannot be forced, cajoled, compelled
- b. Self-oriented – the leadership a husband has with his wife if ever called power is “then it is power to care, not to crush; power to serve, not to dominate; power to facilitate self-fulfillment, not to frustrate or destroy it. And in all this the standard of the husband's love is to be the cross of Christ, on which he surrendered himself even to death in his selfless love for his bride" (232).
- c. Insecure
 - i. Proverbs 31: Decision-maker, planner, entrepreneurial, farsighted, creative, intelligent, talented, wise, watchful, praiseworthy
 - ii. A loving husband is not threatened by a vibrant, competent, brave, outgoing woman

2. What loving your wife is:

- a. Unembittering – “be harsh” translates verb meaning make bitter or sour
- b. Sacrificial
 - i. Agapo – sacrificial, self-giving love – appears in colossians once describing God’s love for his people
 - ii. Ephesians 5:25 (ESV) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
- c. Christ-like (virtues significantly associated with Christ) – Colossians 3:12-14 (ESV)
 - i. Compassion – love characterized by mercy
 - ii. Kindness – love characterized by goodness
 - iii. Humility and Meekness – loving other more than oneself
 - iv. Patience – loving others in our reactions to them
 - v. Bearing with others – loving those different than us
 - vi. Forgiving others – loving others gracefully

Marriage in Christ

What this could look like:

- Christ
- Cross
- Church