

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS

LESSON 7: CHAPTER 3:17-21

29 NOVEMBER, 2013

VERSE 17 If everything you did was done **“in the name of the Lord Jesus,”** there would undoubtedly be some things that you would not buy, some places you would not go, and some actions you would avoid.

Following this procedure will help you when deciding about questionable things; things that are lawful, but not expedient (not spiritually beneficial, 1 Cor. 6:12) and do not edify (teach, help, improve, 1 Cor. 10:23).

“The name of the Lord Jesus...God and the Father.” The Holy Trinity.

THE RIGHT ORDER OF PRIORITIES FOR SUCCESS IN LIFE: (Colossians 3:18-4:6)

MARRIAGE (3:18-19)

FAMILY (3:20-21).

BUSINESS (3:22-4:1).

SOCIAL (4:2-6).

BUT (!) Before ALL of these things you have to have a right relationship with the indwelling Holy Spirit (vss. 16-17).

VERSE 18 **“Wives.”** This exhortation to the wife to submit to her husband will only be possible as she submits to the exhortations already mentioned in Colossians 3:16-17). She must be willing to do it to the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. The word of Christ must dwell in her richly in all wisdom.
2. Her relationship should involve teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.
3. She is to have grace in her heart as she sings to the Lord.
4. She is to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.
5. She is to do it giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

“Submit yourselves unto your own husbands.” There is no requirement here that says the husband must be saved, good, godly, or obedient to God’s Word. The wife is simply expected to obey what God’s word says. Ultimately she is being asked to submit to the Word of God.

Biblical examples of women submitting to bad husbands:

1. 1 Peter 3:1-6 with 1 Peter 2:19-25.
2. Sarah (1 Peter 3:5-6, Genesis 12:10-20).
3. Abigail (1 Samuel 25:1-42).

“as it is fit in the Lord” means it is proper for the wife to obey God’s established order.

VERSE 19 **“Husbands, love *your* wives, and be not bitter against them.”** She may not be a good wife or a good person, but if you married her, you are required to love her.

The example given in Ephesians 5:25-28 is the Lord Jesus Christ and His love for the church, though the church is disobedient and does not live in ways that are well pleasing to Jesus CHRIST. **“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.”**

“be not bitter against them.” Men tend to blame their wives for their problems (Genesis 3:12). Don’t blame her. Blame sin.

VERSE 20 **“Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.”**

It is the right thing to do (Ephesians 6:1).

Your parents are not always going to do right, but you must obey (Hebrews 12:9-10).

There is a time when a child is no longer under the authority of their parents (1 Cor. 13:11, Num 30:3-5, 32:11, Exodus 30:14)

A man is responsible for taking care of those in his own house (1 Timothy 3:4-5). If a child moves out of that house, they are no longer under the authority of their parents.

Verse 21 **“Fathers, provoke not your children to *anger*, lest they be discouraged.”** A parent is to be provoking (unto love and to good works, etc) even when disciplining. Discipline should always look forward to the end result; the ultimate benefit of the child. If a parent whips a child just because they’re annoyed at them or the whipping is just a reaction to anger, then there is no benefit for the child. In fact, they’ll become discouraged.

Ephesians 6:4, **“Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”**

Nurture: loving care, comfort.

Admonition: instructing, pleading to do right.

Discipline must be mixed with love, teaching, example, admonition, and encouragement.

“The nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Don’t just teach your children to obey you. Teach them to obey the Lord. A child will do their best to please their parent only as long as the parent is around. But teach them to please the Lord, and that will last their whole lifetime.
