

# The Healthy Family (Part One)

Colossians 3:18-21

Dr. Jim Cecy

## Introduction:

- Regarding the Modern Family/The New Normal
- Regarding the Need for the Supremacy of Christ in the Family  
Colossians 1:18 "He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything."

The greatest thing that we can do for our family is to have a personal and healthy walk with God.

Colossians 3:18-21 "Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them. Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they may not lose heart."

## THE APOSTLE PAUL'S FOUR FAMILY HEALTH INDICATORS

- FAMILY HEALTH INDICATOR #1. Wives Being Subject to Their Husbands (Colossians 3:18)
- FAMILY HEALTH INDICATOR #2. Husbands Loving Their Wives (Colossians 3: 19)
- FAMILY HEALTH INDICATOR #3. Children Obeying Their Parents (Colossians 3:20)
- FAMILY HEALTH INDICATOR #4. Fathers Not Exasperating Their Children (Colossians 3:21)

## FAMILY HEALTH INDICATOR #1.

### Wives Being Subject to Their Husbands (Colossians 3:18)

"Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord." (Colossians 3:18)

#### I. THE MANDATE FOR SUBMISSION

- We are commanded to submit to God (James 4:7)
- The Church is commanded to submit to Christ (Ephesians 5:24)
- We are commanded to submit to the government (Romans 13:1)
- Workers are commanded to submit to those in authority over them (Titus 2:9)
- We are commanded to submit to our local church elders (Heb. 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5)
- We are commanded to submit to one another in the fear of Christ (Ephesians 5:21)
- Children are commanded to obey their parents (Colossians 3:20)  
e.g. Jesus submitting to His earthly parents, Mary and Joseph (Luke 2:51).
- Wives are commanded to submit to their husbands (Colossians 3:18)

Colossians 3:18 "Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."

Ephesians 5:22-23, 24 "Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church... But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything."

Titus 2:3-5 "Older women likewise are to be...teaching what is good, that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored."

1 Peter 3:1-6 "In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. And let not your adornment be merely external-- braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands. Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear."

**To believe that submission is an outdated, obscure concept is to dishonor the Word of God!**

## II. THE MEANING OF SUBMISSION

Be subject/submit = Greek: hupotasso = rank under/accept the position

It's a voluntarily submission — It's to be an habitual submission

Ephesians 5:23 "For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the Church..."

1 Corinthians 11:3 "But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ."

As the head of the family, the husband will ultimately be held responsible to the Lord for the health of his family!

Submission does not imply inferior ability and less spirituality on the part of the wife nor does it imply greater ability or spirituality on the part of the husband. Submission implies a willingness for a wife to follow God's order for the family

## III. THE MEASURE OF SUBMISSION

1 Peter 3:1-2 "In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior." disobedient = Greek: apeitheo= opposed to things of God

1 Peter 3:13-17 And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

## IV. THE MISSION OF SUBMISSION

**Reason #1. It serves as an example to all believers who are to submit to one another.**

Ephesians 5:21 "...be subject to one another in the fear of Christ."

**Reason #2. It serves as an example for the Church to submit to Jesus Christ, Her Bridegroom.**

Ephesians 5:24 "But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything."

**Reason #3. It serves as an example to her children who need to learn how to submit to God, parents and others in authority.**

Ephesians 6:1-3 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth."

**Reason #4. It serves as an example to a disobedient husband who needs to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.**

1 Peter 3:1 "In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives..."

**Reason #5. It serves as a form of worship to the God of the Universe.**

Colossians 3:18 "...as is fitting in the Lord" = Greek: aneken = "It's His due!"

- Submission is what a wife owes the God of the Universe.
- Submission is her duty to the God who created her.
- Submission is what is due the Savior who Himself submitted to His Heavenly Father.

Proverbs 31:30 "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised."

1 Peter 3:3-4 "And let not your adornment be merely external- braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God."

**Coming next in our series...**

FAMILY HEALTH INDICATOR #2. Husbands Loving Their Wives (Colossians 3:19)

FAMILY HEALTH INDICATOR #3. Children Obeying Their Parents (Colossians 3:20)

FAMILY HEALTH INDICATOR #4. Fathers Not Exasperating Their Children (Colossians 3:21)

Prayer Requests:



# Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 11, 2012

SERMON SERIES: COLOSSIANS

Message Title: "The Healthy Family – Part 1"

Dr. Jim Cecy

November 11, 2012

*This is our final week of the Fall Quarter. Growth Groups will take a break for the holidays and resume the week of January 20.*

*Please take 10 minutes right now as a group to fill out the Evaluation Forms and talk about your plans for next quarter.*

*Thank you for being part of the Growth Group ministry and making a difference in people's lives.*

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. As we enter the Christmas season what are one or two things you look forward to the most? Is there anything you're not looking forward to?
2. This week Pastor Jim began a series on healthy families. How would you describe what life was like growing up in your family? What would you say are one or two of the biggest challenges facing families today?

### Campus Bible Church

For more information about the Growth Group ministry @ Campus,  
Visit [www.campusbiblechurch.com/growthgroups](http://www.campusbiblechurch.com/growthgroups)  
or contact Pastor Kenton Rahn – [kentonrahn@campusbiblechurch.com](mailto:kentonrahn@campusbiblechurch.com).

Sunday Messages and Notes:  
Find at: [www.campusbiblechurch.com/messages](http://www.campusbiblechurch.com/messages)

Weekly Growth Group Homework:  
Find at: [www.campusbiblechurch.com/homework](http://www.campusbiblechurch.com/homework)

Campus Bible Church Podcast:  
Search iTunes podcasts: **Campus Bible Church**

Campus Bible Church | 4710 N. Maple Ave. | Fresno, CA 93726 | Office: 559.291.9116

## DIGGING DEEPER

3. The principle of authority and submission in marriage is found throughout Scripture. When you hear the word “submission” what is your immediate reaction? Do you view it as a positive or negative word?

4. In the Bible, instruction on the topic of submission is not limited to women. Whom does God call to practice godly submission? How does this help to alleviate fears of a double standard?

- Romans 13:1
- Titus 2:9
- Colossians 3:20
- Hebrews 13:17
- Luke 2:51
- Ephesians 5:21

5. Read 1 Peter 3:1-6. This passage raises several important questions...

- According to Peter, how should wives treat their husbands?

- Do you think a wife’s submission is conditional upon her husband’s attitude, behavior, or level of spiritual maturity?

- Is there a point at which it would be wrong for a wife to submit to her husband? (Acts 4:19)

- What should be the primary motive for wives to submit to their husbands? (See also Col. 3:18.)

## TAKING IT HOME

6. Submitting to others in authority can be a humbling and frightening experience because we know that people can let us down. It requires trusting that God will fight for us and take care of us when we do the right thing. Can you think of a time in your life when you chose to submit to someone in authority, even though it was difficult, and God blessed you?

7. What main point are you going to take away from the sermon this week?