

God's plan for the family: Wives

Colossians 3:17-18

17 Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. 18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

“Wives, submit” does NOT imply that:

Wives are of lesser worth or inferior

God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness” ... so God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

– Genesis 1:26a,27

But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man.

– Genesis 2:20b-22

“Wives, submit” does NOT imply that:

Wives are weak, or that submission is effortless

To the woman He said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

– Genesis 3:16

“Wives, submit” does NOT imply that:

Husbands should enforce that command

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.

– Ephesians 5:25

“Wives, submit” does NOT imply that:

Wives need to submit to ungodly things

Understand what the will of the Lord is ... [submit] to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. –

Ephesians 5:17,21-22

Colossians 3:17 “Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

The Bible also calls us to submit: to authorities (Rom 13:1-5; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Pet 2:13); to laborers in the gospel (1 Cor 16:15-16); to “bosses” (Titus 2:9; 1 Pet 2:18-23); to our Father’s discipline (Heb 12:9); and to God Himself! (James 4:7).

“Submit” DOES call for a certain:

CHARACTER: Maintain a gentle, humble, and calm spirit

CONDUCT: Do what is right, agreeable, and honorable

ROLE: Willingly defer / yield to authority

Why should a wife submit? To follow Christ’s example

If when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly. Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the Word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. – 1 Peter 2:20b-23; 3:1-2

Why should a wife submit? To demonstrate her (and our) submission to Christ

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

– Ephesians 5:22-24

Wives, look to Jesus to find the strength to submit – He’s not only your example and your Lord, but He’s also your Savior, your Shepherd, and your Overseer.

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you ... He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

– 1

Peter 2:21a,24-25