

SERMON OUTLINE Colossians 3:18-4:1

Christian Homes - Husbands and Wives

THE BIGGER STORY OF MARRIAGE

Love and Submission Rooted in God's (Very Good) Created Order

Love and Submission Rooted in God's Nature

Love and Submission Rooted in the Aim of all Things

Why Is Love and Submission So Hard?

WIVES SUBMIT FITTINGLY (18)

Submit

To Your Husband

Fittingly

HUSBANDS LOVE GENTLY (19)

Love

Your Wife

Gently

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of 18-19 is that one critical aspect of enduring persecution and living according to our new natures in Christ is wives fittingly submitting to their husbands and husbands gently loving their wives. That's also the main takeaway.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What's the hardest command in the Bible for you to joyfully obey?
3. Have you ever felt a tension between "big God theology" and practical application?
4. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of wives submitting to their husbands?
5. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of husbands loving their wives?
6. Does anything in vs.18-19 not seem good, beautiful, or true?
7. Have you ever thought of love and submission in marriage as being rooted in God's creation, nature, and salvation?
8. On a scale of 1-10, how hard is it for you on a normal basis to love your wife gently? Submit to your husband fittingly? Why?
9. What has been the biggest influence on how you view the right relationship between husband and wife? Are there any specific ways this passage/sermon reshaped that?
10. Have you ever heard someone try to explain away the plain meaning of "submit" in v.18? Why do you think people do that?
11. How confident are you in your understanding of what "fitting" submission and unsubmission look like in daily life?
12. How confident are you in your understanding of what loving your wife ought to look like in daily life?
13. What part of submitting or loving is most challenging for you?
14. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

15. Thank one of the elders of grace for one specific way their ministry has helped you grow in Christ.
16. Spend some time praying through the larger story of the Bible inside which Colossians 3:18-19 makes sense.
17. Come up with one specific way to grow in (or prepare for) submission or love. Begin doing so THIS WEEK.
18. Wives, find an older woman who can help "train you to be submissive to [your] own husband" (Titus 2:5) in a fitting way.
19. Husbands, pick one of the five practical ways to love your wife from *Love that Lasts* and prayerfully begin doing it.
20. Confess any ways you've sinned against your spouse in this area. Ask someone to help you if your marriage is in trouble.
21. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

22. Adoration. Praise God that He is Creator. Praise God that He is Triune. Praise the Son that He willingly submits to the Father's will. Praise God that all that He is and does is fitting. Praise God that He is love and that He is gentle.
23. Confession. Confess any ways that you've failed to see the goodness, beauty, or truth of this passage. Confess any ways you've sinfully rejected or applied the commands in this passage. Confess any ways you've been unsubmitive or unloving.
24. Thanksgiving. Thank God that He is gracious in Christ—that we are new creations, forgiven, able to forgive, accepted by God, free from sin's slavery, free to enter God's presence, hopeful, and filled with the Spirit, and the good news this is for marriage.
25. Supplication. Ask God to help you to see that it is good, beautiful, and true that wives are to submit fittingly and husbands are to love gently. Ask God to help you and your spouse live in obedience to those commands (now or whenever you get married). Ask God to forgive you for your failure to obey as you should. Ask God to heal the marriages that are especially painful.