

Colossians 3:18- 4:1

18 Now the ethical practicality of living out the virtues mentioned above. Every area has reciprocal obligations. A parallel passage is Ephesians 5:22-6:9 Let's read that as well.

It starts in the home. The husband is the God ordained authority and the wife should submit to that authority. This is of first importance so there is not strife at the most basic level of society. However, the second is the husband's duty to the wife... Women do have an extremely hard time accepting this. It is a matter of trusting God. It is the design of creation. It is counter-cultural today's culture and even mocked. I can tell you from experience of pastoring that the most unhappy of Christian marriages are the ones in which the wife insists on having the final say in decisions. When the husband does not feel respected, his most basic need is not fulfilled. It brings security to the marriage.

19 Love and gentleness - the husband's obligation. The wife will find submission much easier when the husband does his duty. Loving gentleness is Jesus' style of leadership, though firmness and even rebuke are sometimes necessary. We are to love as Christ loved the church. That is radical! It was not common in Greek society where husbands had no obligation to their wife. When a wife feels loved, her most basic need is met. It brings security to the marriage.

20 Children are under the authority of their parents and should submit to them because it pleases the Lord who has ordered us to honor our parents. Exodus 20:12

21 The reciprocal side is that fathers as authority in the home should not provoke (prolonged stimulation toward anger) their children so that they don't become discouraged/disheartened -(lack of self confidence, depressed, sense of worthlessness). Build them up in the good more than you tear them down for the bad. Correction is important but encouragement is absolutely necessary.

22 Slaves are to submit to the Master they serve. He is their authority. God sovereignly allowed that situation so serve him as serving Jesus. It follows that employees should have the same attitude toward employers. Christians would be the first to be hired if that were always true. This is not approval of slavery, but rather instruction to the slave to honor God in his life circumstances. This submission will bless the slave as well, as his mind will not be agitated and he is more likely to be appreciated and honored by his or her master.

23 See vs 17. I think this applies to all relationships and work. Serve God and know that you have eternal reward. If you focus on man and his worthiness, you will always be disappointed. He accepts it as service to Him because He established the authorities that exist. We have to remember that God is sovereign. 1Corinthians 7:20-24; Romans 13:1-2

24 – 25 God will reward those who work as unto Him, but He will also judge those who resist authority He establishes. Whichever side you are on, authority or submission, God judges wrong doing!

4:1 The reciprocal side of slave/Master relationship- the Master is to be just and fair for He will answer to God. This went way beyond the Roman culture's value of a slave and concept of accountability. The very idea that slaves have souls is what ended slavery in Europe.

Questions

Is submission a bad word? Is it necessary?

Who submits to whom in these passages?

What is the reciprocal obligation of each?

Which side of each relationship must obey this passage?

What is the alternative to the relationships in this passage?

How is master/slave relationship applicable to employee/employer?

How is it different?