

Living Christianity

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Colossians 3:18-4:6.
- B. The apostle is stressing the need to live as a Christian wherever you are.
- C. You can state the secret of Christian living in one sentence: walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

II. Wives are to submit to their husbands.

- A. Feminists have bristled at this.
- B. However, submission does not deny equality—everyone is to submit himself or herself to someone.
- C. The Lord's own submitting Himself to the Father is the ultimate pattern—this Jesus delighted in.
- D. Submission means to voluntarily place oneself under another for a purpose of some sort. It stresses the need for support.

III. The husband is to love his wife.

- A. This does not mean make love, but honor and respect.
- B. He is to plan in order to love her well.
- C. He is to put off harshness.

IV. Children are to obey their parents in everything.

- A. This means to hear under someone recognizing that one is over you.
- B. God can be pleased through obedience to parents.
 - 1. It preserves peace in the home.
 - 2. It teaches obedience to authority.
- C. This ought to be taught to children as they are growing up.

V. Fathers are not to irritate their children.

- A. Frequent nagging results in encouragement.

B. One should not always turn a child down or always give in to his desires.

C. One should not insult a child to create a feeling of resentment in them.

VI. Slaves are to obey their masters.

A. This was written before the time that society was ready to end slavery.

B. One should view his service as unto the Lord not man.

C. He who is faithful in service will be given more service.

VII. Masters must be fair to their slaves.

A. Employers are to be careful with how they treat their employees.

B. This shows God's goodness.

VIII. How we are to live.

A. We are to watch and pray for others and ourselves in the face of challenges.

B. We are to be sensitive to others.

C. Be gracious.

Application questions:

1. Which commands in this section stand out to you? Why?

2. Does Paul condone slavery? Explain your answer.

3. How do you explain biblical submission? Does submission nullify equality? Explain.
