

God’s Template for Life – Part 2
Colossians 3:18-19

This passage highlights two components of God’s template for marriage relationships.

● **GOD’S TEMPLATE FOR WIVES: SUBMISSION.**

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Colossians 3:18-19 (English Standard Version)

Submit = to voluntarily subordinate oneself to another (See 1 Corinthians 16:16; Luke 2:51; and Romans 13:1)

For a wife, submission = to voluntarily order herself under the authority of her husband = willingly function under the husband’s leadership

Three Things Submission Does Not Mean

- “Women, submit to men.”
- “Wives, obey your husbands.”
- Women are inferior to men.

So you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus . . . ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all Christians—you are one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26-28 (New Living Translation, 1996)

For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Ephesians 5:23 (New International Version)

- Husband = a head among equals
- “Helper suitable for him” (Genesis 2) = “helper corresponding to him” = counterpart
- The attitude that describes submission best is the attitude of respect.

However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Ephesians 5:33 (NIV)

Four Ways to Demonstrate Respect
(From Shaunti Feldhahn’s For Women Only)

- Respect your husband’s judgment.
- Respect your husband’s abilities.
- Show respect in your communication.
- Give respect in public.

● **GOD’S TEMPLATE FOR HUSBANDS: LOVE.**

Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Colossians 3:19 (ESV)

Love = *agape* = God’s kind of love = the love of choice, not emotion

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her . . . Ephesians 5:25 (NIV)

- Love is expressed most fully through self-sacrifice.
- Self-sacrifice = put your wife’s needs above your own

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel . . . 1 Peter 3:7 (ESV)

Three Ways to Demonstrate Love, by Meeting Needs

- Make your marriage relationship a top priority.
- Protect your wife.
- Connect with her emotionally.

- **APPLICATION:** What I will do differently this week is _____
- _____.