

## Authority and Submission

**Colossians 3:18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.**

**Eph. 5:22 Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord.**

But notice:

**Ephesians 5:21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.**

The Greek verb is the same in all three of these verses (the verb is understood in verse 22 based upon the verb in verse 21).

But before we look at submission, we should note the divinely established principle of ‘authority.’ Authority is fundamental to all four of the divine institutions: volition, marriage, family and nationalism. As we look at authority, I want to start off with some basic principles related to authority.

1<sup>st</sup> God is the author of Authority starting with Himself over all creation: angels, mankind, nature and the universe.

2<sup>nd</sup> In the human realm, authority does not necessarily mean superiority. That is, just because one is in authority does not mean they are superior to those who must submit to their authority.

3<sup>rd</sup> In some circumstances you get to pick whose authority you will submit to, while in others you have no choice at all, you are to submit!

## **Authority and Submissions** **Colossians 3:18**

For example, we all start out under authority in which we had no choice: that is our parents, parental authority, to train us, to rear us, to be productive citizens and Christian adults. Here we first learn about authority. Unfortunately, not all that many parents today take their responsibility seriously, with the result that many, many children grow up with little to no respect of authority.

Another area where we have no choice about the authority we are to submit to is in education. We have teachers, which we did not choose, from the first grade through high school. Unfortunately, today, administration takes the side of the pupils rather than the teachers, so there is a breakdown in learning about authority even here.

Another area where you do not get to choose those in authority over you is in the military. This is an excellent place to learn about authority and submission to authority, even when you do not wish to submit.

But there are areas in life where we do choose those to whom we will submit. Generally speaking, in the work world, we choose where we are going to work and submit to our employers whoever they may be.

Another area is in the local church you choose to attend. Here the pastor-teacher is in authority by God's design. There will certainly be times you question what he is teaching and certainly you will disagree with some of his decisions. But, he is the authority of the local church and he teaches you the truth of the Word of God. You can change churches, but you will be under the authority of the pastor wherever you choose to go.

And then, of course, there is the area of our study. You ladies get to choose under whose authority you will live for the rest of your life: your

**Authority and Submissions**  
**Colossians 3:18**

husband. Now, many ladies, even Christian ladies do not like the fact that the husband is in authority. But ladies, best you learn and believe and live the Word of God before you marry. In Genesis 3, God set it up where the wife is under the authority of her husband, whether you like it or not, this is God's Word. I personally, know several ladies who have or do claim they love the Lord but do not submit to the authority of their husbands. This is a very simple principle: you cannot love the Lord and live contrary to His Word. Ladies have all kinds of excuses and reasons why they do not submit to their husbands, but the crucial point is that if you are in the power of the Holy Spirit, you will submit, and if you do not submit, then you are not in the Holy Spirit, no matter what you proclaim. Peter gives excellent procedure for the wife who may think she has reason not to submit.

**1 Peter 3:1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,**

**1 Peter 3:2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.**

**1 Peter 3:3 Your adornment must not be *merely* external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;**

Authority and Submissions  
Colossians 3:18

**1 Peter 3:4 but *let it be the hidden person of the heart*, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.**

**1 Peter 3:5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;**

**1 Peter 3:6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.**

**1 Peter 3:7 You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.**

Throughout the Old Testament and the New Testament, there is the principle of submission, which is founded on the principle of authority.

1. Definition: Authority is the legal power delegated by God under the laws of divine establishment whereby certain members of the human race have jurisdiction and responsibility for others.

**Authority and Submissions**  
**Colossians 3:18**

Authority exists in both the temporal and spiritual realm under the laws of divine establishment. “Authority is the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.”

2. Authority and the fall in the garden. It is important to note that both the man and the woman rejected the authority of the Lord. He told both of them not to eat of the forbidden tree. They both ignored His warnings and rejected His authority. The result was that both sinned. As a result, both died spiritually in the garden and both received a sin nature. The woman, Eve, failed under authority to the Lord and to His words to her. The man, Adam, failed under authority to the Lord and listening to the words of his wife.

**Gen. 3:17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.**

Think about this, men, the Earth is today under curse because Adam in listening to his wife, disobeyed the Lord. And the earth is still under that curse and man is still working.

The first civilization began with authority and rejection against that authority, that is the authority of the Lord and His words.

3. There are certain areas of authority in life which are established by God, Himself. These authorities are based on the laws of divine

**Authority and Submissions**  
**Colossians 3:18**

establishment. The sooner you learn these, and the sooner you submit to these, the more in harmony your life will become with God. But as you refuse to submit, the more trouble you are inviting into your life and here, into your marriage. The first area of authority is God's direct authority. Today, in the Church Age, God's direct authority is known only through His Word. Not through dreams, not through visions, not through trances, not through hallucinating like those who hear the voice of God. This is the delusion of those who are looking for some special revelation from God, that gives them the right to disobey the authority laid out in His Holy Scripture and only in His Word. People like the epileptic criminal Mohammad and the delusional Joseph Smith had visions and trances in which they claim to have received information from God that counters the Bible. And because they received it this way, it is truth!! No, it is not! And today a multitude of women have dreams and trances where they receive information about marriage that contradicts the Word of God. God exercises His authority through the completed Canon of Scripture.

4. The first divine institution is individual volition. This is each person's authority in their own lives. Satan attacked this right after Luther's reformation through John Calvin, who could not stand it that God would give mankind volition to counter His will, or volition to resist the grace of the gospel. So, he blasphemed the essence of God by declaring that the Sovereign, Compassionate God actually created beings that He was going to cast into eternal separation from Himself. And this was in some way supposed to glorify God. But God designed and created a lower creature,

**Authority and Submissions**  
**Colossians 3:18**

mankind, with a soul. And in that soul God put volition. It is here that you have the basic authority which belongs to you as a creation by God. The volition of the individual is designed so that each individual who reaches the age of accountability can use his/her volition to believe in the existence of God and to believe or refuse to believe in Jesus Christ as your personal savior. You have the authority to decide where you will spend eternity! God sentences no one to eternal separation from Himself. He leaves that up to every individual who reaches the age of accountability. Volition is designed by God for your privacy and freedom. You should be free to exercise your volition. You should have privacy to make decisions without being persecuted that is, to make decisions as unto the Lord. Of course, this freedom is within the confines of divinely established authority. For example, children are under the authority of their parents; wives are under the authority of their husbands and we are all under the authority of the Lord. But even in these established areas of authority, each individual has the volition to decide to submit or rebel.

5. There are five basic things that every child must learn from his parents or grandparents or church before he/she is released on society.

(1) The first is respect for authority.

a. Authority of the child's parents under the institution of the family. Here they should learn the importance of respect for authority. Gen. 4-10; Eph. 6;1-4 and 2 Tim. chapter 1.

**Authority and Submissions**  
**Colossians 3:18**

- b. Respect the authority of the Word of God. I am so sorry to say that fewer and fewer people, including pastors, have respect for the authority of the Word of God over the church and over our lives. It directs us morally, politically and economically.
- c. Authority of God the Father Deut. 6:4.
- d. Authority of Jesus Christ and His teaching. Col. 2-3.
- e. We submit to the authority of the Holy Spirit when we trust in Him.
- f. Authority of the pastor-teacher where the parishioners attend to grow in the knowledge of the Word of God. Eph. Chapter 4 and Heb. 13.
- g. Authority of those in society under divine institutions 2, 3 and 4.  
Local police—stop sign and street lights; city, state and national levels.
- h. Authority of the judge on the bench—local to national. 1Cor 6:1-8.
- i. Authority in athletics—sports. 1 Cor. 9:24-27.
- j. Authority in the military—Chain of command. Matt. 8:8-10.
- k. Authority in education—the teacher in classroom or on the internet.



**Authority and Submissions**  
**Colossians 3:18**

1. Authority of human volition—to always defend freedom.
  - (2) The principle of self-discipline. Doing the pleasant things as well as doing the unpleasant things. 2 Thess. 3:8-15; Gal. 5:23.
  - (3) Respect for the privacy of others Gal. 6:5 1 Peter 3:1-7. Here they will learn not to stick their nose into other people's business and to judge others, or malign or gossip.
  - (4) Respect for the property of others. Passages on stealing and protection of property. This is where they learn to return something they have borrowed in the same condition it was when they borrowed it.
  - (5) Respect for the rights of others—something lost in America today.
6. There is another area where we learn about authority and that is academic authority, regardless of whether it is a public school, a private school, a college, university, a graduate school, or a Christian school. When you enter a school as a student, you must accept the authority of that school and its policies. The dress code, the moral code or the academic code. Unfortunately, we live in a time when students and parents rebel against the dress code and actually win over the authority of the school. And they become so arrogantly proud of themselves and their children. You have just done your children a disservice that just may go with them the rest of their lives into their marriages. If you don't like something about a school, then choose some other school. But don't be surprised if no school meets your standards or lack of them. You have no

**Authority and Submissions**  
**Colossians 3:18**

privilege of agreement or non-agreement with their authority, once you enter that school. You have only the right and privilege to do it! Authority is always the issue academically. And everyone should know that in most cases most schools do not teach objectively any longer. Teaching history objectively is all but lost in America, where they twist and distort history to fit their global ideals and objectives. Few graduating seniors know the differences among capitalism and socialism and Communism and globalization and national loyalty. They do not know or even understand the difference economically in each of these political structures. Few Christians know that it was Christianity that was the foundation for capitalism and the division between Church and State.

7. Another area of authority is athletics. Coaches should be the best disciplinarians for young people, getting them ready for the military, for citizenship and for marriage. Coaches should have the authority to remove people from the team, to have strict code of standards: dress, hair, moral standards. Today we have permissiveness in coaching and it shows from pee wee up to professional. Today winning rules, money rules, executives who have no understanding of authority rule over the coaches.
8. Another area where authority is very important is in the area of the military. Our freedom depends on discipline, authority and sound thinking leaders. You do not get to choose who is in authority over you, and you best submit to it, like it or not. To take 80-150 men from all walks of life, all races, all backgrounds and mold them into a fighting machine demands authority. Clinton, Obama and G.W.

**Authority and Submissions**  
**Colossians 3:18**

Bush, (all three are strong globalists) tried their best to dismantle the US military and one of the most important ways was to attack authority.

9. There are many different Greek words for authority. The Greek word *exousia* is one of the more prominent words for authority. The definition involves authority, right and power. It differs from another word often used for authority: *dunami*. The difference in these two words is that *exousia* simply refers to the delegation of authority while *dunamis* refers to the capability to be in authority. One may be in a position of authority but not have the inherent ability to be in charge. What is difficult is when one who has the inherent ability has to submit to the authority of a superior, simply because he is in a superior position. So that we will all understand that we are to submit to the authority of God, this word is used of the absolute authority of God in:

**Acts 1:7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority (*exousia*);**

The authority of God and His delegation of authority in the divine institutions is final but is challenged by the arrogance of men and women. And when we come to salvation, God’s authority is at the foundation of the gospel.

**Luke 12:5 “But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has**

**Authority and Submissions**  
**Colossians 3:18**

**authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!**

Only God has the authority and the power to condemn mankind to the eternal Lake of Fire. It is amazing how many Christian ladies believe God has this authority but not the authority to tell them to submit to the authority of their husbands. Now, what is interesting is that God the Father has delegated this authority over to His Son, Jesus Christ.

**John 5:27 and He (God the Father) gave Him (Jesus Christ) authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man.**

OK, ladies, you claim to follow and obey Jesus Christ, well, we will see in **Colossians 3:18 wives, be subject to your husbands as is fitting to the Lord**

We, each one of us, must decide, does Jesus Christ have the authority to direct areas in life where we are to submit to His delegated authority, like to parents, to husbands, to those in positions of authority in our lives?

The decision here is not ‘to submit or not to submit to the immediate authority’ but to submit to the authority of Jesus Christ over our lives. The wife is not making a decision to submit to her husband but to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the word study on authority there is also a warning to husbands to whom their wives are to submit. This Greek word is *katexousaizo* which is used to describe the misuse of authority. It’s meaning is using your

**Authority and Submissions**  
**Colossians 3:18**

authority as power against in order to fulfill the interest of the one in authority. Jesus Christ warns against the use of this kind of authority.

**Matthew 20:25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and *their* great men exercise authority over them.**

Jesus teaches us that positions of authority carry greater responsibility, namely that the one in authority is to be the servant of those under their authority. So, husbands you are to use your position of authority to serve your wives not lord over them. You are to use your authority to protect and serve your wives.

Another Greek word for authority is *kurieuo* from *kurios* or Lord: to have or exercise authority over others.

**Romans 14:9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.**

The Greek word *dunamis* emphasizes power more than authority. One has authority because of power. Another word close to *dunamis* is the Greek word *kratos* which emphasizes power or dominance.

There is so much more to learn in regards to authority, but this should be a good foundation for authority in marriage. People who do not learn how to submit to authority and how to properly use authority will in most cases have difficulty in marriage.

**Authority and Submissions**  
**Colossians 3:18**

Submission, according to the Bible, is an act of the will demonstrated by *voluntarily* serving others out of an attitude that regards them as more important than yourself (**Philippians 2:2-4**).

This does not mean that you place yourself under their control. You stand directly accountable to God and not to anyone else's ultimate authority (Matthew 20:26-28; Acts 5:29; Romans 14:12; Philippians 2:3-4).

- I. You are to be like the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the supreme example of submission.**
  - A. He submitted to the will of His Father (John 5:30; Philippians 2:5-8).*
  - B. He willingly served others by doing for them what was needed, giving you an example to follow (John 13:12-17).*
  - C. He suffered unjustly, not threatening or retaliating, but instead entrusting Himself to His heavenly Father who judges righteously (1 Peter 2:21-25).*
- II. God's Word requires you to submit without being argumentative or complaining (Proverbs 10:12; Ephesians 4:31; Philippians 2:14).**
  - A. To God –*
    - 1. Place yourself continuously under His control (Ephesians 5:18-20; James 4:7; 1 John 5:3; Romans 6:13, 19; 12:1-2).**

**Authority and Submissions**  
**Colossians 3:18**

- 2. Live with His Word as your only hope, standard and ultimate authority (Psalms 19:7-11; 119:49; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:3-4).**
  - 3. Be empowered, strengthened and led by the Holy Spirit (John 14:26; Romans 8:2-4, 14; 1 John 4:4; Ephesians 5:18; Philippians 2:13).**
- B. To other believers (Ephesians 5:21-24; 1 Peter 5:5).*
- C. To your spouse: husbands to wives (Ephesians 5:21); wives to husbands (Ephesians 5:21-24; 1 Peter 3:1-6).*
- D. To your parents while you are under their authority (Ephesians 6:1-2).*
- E. To your employers, rendering service to them with good will (Ephesians 6:5-7; 1 Peter 2:18).*
- F. To your employees, by not threatening them (Ephesians 6:5-9).*
- G. To authority in the church (Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Peter 5:5).*
- H. To authority in civil government (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17).*