

**Colossians – Chapter 3**  
**“Putting on Christ in Our Marriage”**  
**Colossians 3:17-19**

**Verse 17**

1. What a beautiful and succinct verse. Everything you say and do, do it in the name of Jesus.
  - This doesn't mean that every time you buy groceries, you tell the cashier, "I'm buying these groceries in the name of Jesus."
  - The phrase "name of Christ" speaks of identification. Whatever I do or say should be able to be identified with the Christ who lives within me, without bringing reproach or shame to Him.
2. As believers who are indwelt by Christ, we should be mindful that we represent Him wherever we go, and in whatever we say and do.
3. We bear the name of Christ. This is a great privilege, but also a great responsibility.
4. This name of Christ should be the one that we are concerned with clinging to – not the name "Baptist," "Presbyterian," "Catholic," or "Lutheran." These are all man-made names, but our utmost desire should be to be associated with the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
5. It takes years to build a good name, but only a matter of minutes to destroy it. Think about it - who names their little girl "Jezebel" today, or who names their little boy "Judas"?
  - In the same way, it only takes a few moments or a few loose words to hurt the testimony and name of Christ.
6. A great cross-reference with this verse is 1 Corinthians 10:31, "*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*"
  - People will often ask, "Is this right or wrong to do? Is this movie right or wrong to watch? Is this kind of music right or wrong to listen to? Should I go to this place? Should I be involved in this or that?"
  - Simply ask yourself, "Can I do this to the glory of Jesus Christ, in His name, with thankfulness in my heart to Him?"
7. Did you notice all the heart issues that Paul has dealt with in the last few verses?
  - "*Let the peace of God rule in your hearts...*" – vs. 15
  - "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...*" – vs. 16
  - "*...singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord*" – vs. 16
  - "*...giving thanks to God and the Father by him*" – vs. 17
8. When the heart is firmly established with peace, the Word of God, grace, and thankfulness, whatever we do or say, we bring glory to the name of Christ.

**Verse 18-19**

1. When we "put on" Christ in our daily lives, what does it look like in our family relationships? When our hearts are established with the graces we discussed in the previous verses, how does this impact our marriage and our home?

2. Paul gets real practical and shows us in this passage. Paul isn't dealing with the details of marriage in this text. He will deal with two issues that have the potential to rip apart any marriage:
  - A wife who disrespects her husband, possessing a bossy spirit
  - A husband who possesses a bitter spirit, fails to appreciate his wife, and attempts to rule over his wife rather than love her
3. The answer for both of these issues is for the husband and wife to be renewed in the knowledge of Christ (vs. 10), putting on Christ in their attitudes and actions (vs. 12-13).
4. Why did Paul command wives to have a submissive spirit towards their husbands?
  - Sometimes people accuse Paul of being a male chauvinist, and being prejudiced against women.
  - Actually, Paul's gospel of grace had done a great deal to elevate the status of women in the Roman culture. Paul taught that women were to be valued, loved, and that they were spiritually equal within the body of Christ.
5. But, this doesn't change the fact that men and women have different roles in the marriage relationship. Each has a different function that is meant to complement the other. They are both of equal value and importance, but they are not the same.
  - **The husband's core role** revolves around leadership - a servant-leader who loves his wife, and is a source of life and blessing to her. Ephesians 5:25
  - **The wife's core role** revolves around helping, loving, nurturing, and supporting. Her focus, attention, and encouragement are the keys that stabilize and energize her husband and children. Titus 2:4-5
6. It is interesting that neither verse here in Colossians deals with the core roles of either spouse, but rather it deals with the godly **response** of each spouse to the other's roles.
7. A godly wife **responds** to her husband's role of leadership with an attitude of submission. vs. 18
  - Submission is not the wife's core role. It is her Christ-like response to his role that energizes him to be the leader God wants him to be.
  - Submission is not the result of a forced dictatorship. It has to begin in the heart.
  - Submission is not a woman subjecting herself to abusive and sinful behavior.
  - A man is naturally a protector and provider and desires to lead the way. Men are typically built that way. It is inside of him. Submission means that the wife recognizes her husband's leadership and responds to him in a way that empowers him to lead.
  - Submission simply means that the attitude she conveys to her husband is, "I believe in you. I'm with you. You can do it. I have confidence in you, and I fully expect you to lead in this relationship." This does something for a man that cannot be described.

8. A godly husband **responds** to his wife's core role of nurturing, helping, and supporting with an attitude of love, understanding, and praise. vs. 19
- More than anything else, a wife wants to be loved and appreciated. She wants to know that her husband loves her and values her more than anything else in the world (outside of Christ).
  - Love is spelled T-I-M-E. When a husband spends time with his wife, he is paying her the supreme compliment. She yearns for her husband's presence, his interest, and his availability.
  - Ephesians 5:29 says that the husband is to nourish and cherish her. He expresses tenderness to her and is emotionally sensitive to her needs. When she hurts, he hurts.
  - Many a man makes no attempt to understand his wife or communicate with her. Therefore, in his failure to know and understand his wife, he gets bitter at her.
  - 1 Peter 3:7 teaches that we are to honor our wives. Treat her with respect and dignity. Stand by her and remind her that, apart from her, you and your family could not make it – not well. She is the critical difference.
  - When a husband strives to exemplify servant-leadership, and responds to his wife's role with love and praise, you will be surprised at how many marriage problems suddenly disappear. You become a leader she truly wants to follow.