

THE REAL HOUSE-LIVES OF NEW ORLEANS

Colossians 3:16-19 (NLT)

- **In our *Get Your Role On* series we're learning how to strengthen families by focusing on marital, parental, vocational and friendship relationships.**
- *"Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly."* (Colossians 3:18-19)
- **Marriages are in trouble in our nation for many different reasons.**
- **When marriage is done God's way, it can be the most satisfying and secure relationship people can have outside of their relationship with the Lord.**
- ***What does it take to "do marriage God's way"?***

***"Doing Marriage God's Way" Requires*:**

CHRISTIAN WIVES HAVING GODLY <u>ATTITUDES</u>

- **Godly Wives are determined to *Submit* to their Husband.**
    - *"Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord."* (Colossians 3:18)
    - **Men and women are equals but have different roles - the husband is to be the "head" and the wife is to be the "heart" of the home.**
    - **Submission is a quality of gentleness that affirms a husband and submits to Biblical authority, and is an obedience that pleases God.**
    - **The Lord can use a wife's submission to cause her husband to surrender to Him.**
    - *"You wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over by observing your pure and reverent lives."* (1 Peter 3:1-2)
    - **A "submitted wife" is a beautiful woman to God and her husband (1 Peter 3:4-5).**
- **Godly Wives want to bring *Delight* to their Husband.**

- *The Lord – "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion who will help him."* (Genesis 2:18)
- **A godly wife will seek to meet her husband's top needs (sexual fulfillment, recreational companionship, physical attractiveness, admiration and domestic support, etc.).**
- *"The husband should not deprive his wife of sexual intimacy, which is her right as a married woman, nor should the wife deprive her husband."* (1 Corinthians 7:3)

- **Godly Wives make it a practice to *Respect* their Husband*.***
  - *"Each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."* (Ephesians 5:33)
  - **A complaining and disrespectful wife has a negative effect on her husband and family.**
  - *"It is better to live alone in the corner of an attic than with a contentious wife in a lovely home."* (Proverbs 21:9)
  - *"It is better to live alone in the desert than with a crabby, complaining wife."* (Proverbs 21:19)
  - **Respect is to a man what "romance" is to a woman.**

***"Doing Marriage God's Way" Requires*:**

CHRISTIAN HUSBANDS HAVING GODLY <u>AMBITIONS</u>

- **Godly Husbands make it a point to *Love* their wife well.**
  - *"You husbands must love your wives and never treat them harshly."* (Colossians 3:19)
  - **Loving wives the way God wants husbands to love them requires sacrifice.**
    - *"You husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up His life for her."* (Ephesians 5:25)
    - **Godly husbands are willing to sacrifice time, interests and ambitions in order to support and encourage their wives.**
  - **Loving wives the way God wants husbands to love them requires sensitivity.**
    - *"Husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. . . . No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it."* (Ephesians 5:28-29)
    - **Husbands who really love their wives seek to meet their top needs (affection, conversation, honesty and openness, financial support, and family commitment).**
    - *"You husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat her with understanding as you live together."* (1 Peter 3:7)

        - **Husbands who really love their wives seek to communicate well with them.**
    - **Loving wives the way God wants husbands to love them requires faithfulness.**
        - *Jesus – "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. Since they are no longer two but one, let no one separate them, for God has joined them together."* (Matthew 19:5-6)
        - **We must be faithful to our spouses in every way if we are to please the Lord and be helpful rather than hurtful to our family.**
    - **Loving wives the way God wants husbands to love them requires selflessness.**
        - *"Each man must love his wife as he loves himself."* (Ephesians 5:33)
        - **Real love is putting others and their needs before our self and our needs.**
- **Godly Husbands make it a practice to *Lead* their Wife well.**
    - *"A husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of his body, the church . . ."* (Ephesians 5:23)
    - **Godly Husbands will strive to be an encourager to their wife.**
        - *"You husbands must love your wives and <u>never treat them harshly</u>."* (Colossians 3:19)
        - **One of the greatest needs of most wives is encouragement from their husband.**
        - *"A friend loves at all times . . ."* (Proverbs 17:17 NIV)
        - *"There are 'friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother."* (Proverbs 18:24)
    - **Godly Husbands will strive to be a financial provider in their home.**
        - **Christian men are to provide financially for their families unless physically hindered.**
        - *"Those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers."* (1 Timothy 5:8)
    - **Godly Husbands will strive to be a spiritual leader in their home.**
        - **Christian men are to lead and encourage their families to know, worship, and serve the Lord.**
        - Joshua – *"As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."* (Joshua 24:15)

- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message, and how am I going to respond to it?***
- *"Be filled with the Spirit and keep on being guided by Him."* (Ephesians 5:18 Amp)
- **When we're led and empowered by God's Spirit we can be who He's called us to be and live and relate to others like He's called us to do.**