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## Study Page: Col. 3:18-21

### This Pleases The Lord

#### Reading Colossians 3:18-21

The most important relationship is ones' relationship with God. Get that right, through active faith in Christ, and from that priority, all other relationships can be governed. When I perform marriage ceremonies, I always say to the couple: *If you both will maintain an active love for God, there is no issue or challenge you cannot face and work through together.*

Here in Colossians 3:18-21, Paul tells us how it should be, as God's plan is respected. **"Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."** This is not a vague submission that men can define to suit their interests. This is submission "as is fitting in the Lord." To learn more about how this should work, please consult Eph. 5:22-33. There you will discover that the husband's headship is controlled by such a high level of love, it is the love that Christ has for the church. Further, his headship is that which "nourishes and cherishes."

The wife submits to this nourishing, cherishing love for her head. Should any husband dogmatically define his headship in terms of any barking of commands to cater to his comfort, the next verse says: "do not be harsh with them!"

**When male headship and female submission is defined according to the words of the Lord in this text and in Ephesians 5, the relationship is "as**



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**fitting in the Lord."** This requires, however, the love and respect of both husband and wife *for God*. Once that is their settled attitude about all of life, these instructions fall right into place and enable the partners to deal with the challenges of the relationship.

Children are part of the family, and they are assigned responsibility: "obey your parents." And the reason is given, "this pleases the Lord."

Just try to imagine, a teenager having a conversation with the apostle Paul: *"Brother Paul, my parents are not very smart. In fact, I'm smarter than my parents. They have these old, outdated habits and rules and traditions. They just drive me crazy sometimes. They really don't understand me or give me what I want. What should I do brother Paul? Do you think the answer would be any different today? "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."*

An especially important word is given here to fathers: **"...do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."**

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There is this specific attitude or manner in dealing with children that can be tempting and habitual. The children disturb your peace and your reaction is to yell at them or berate them. While children need negative reaction to bad behavior, this verse warns against being insulting, offensive and demeaning.