

## **The Secret to a Successful Marriage**

### **Colossians 3:18-19**

18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

As I was looking for a subject to preach on Valentine's day this week I was looking at all the marriage verses.

They are mostly similar to the one in our text this morning.

But I thought how does that help. It seems so short on instruction and even admonition.

Wives submit, husbands love. I got to thinking that Paul had let us come up a little short.

But then I realized something that I knew that I knew but had never thought of in this way before. And as I read the commentaries it seems that most everyone else had not either.

You see if you start reading in verse 18 here you have missed all the preliminary work that Paul had laid down before hand.

So I don't really want to preach on verses 18 and 19 this morning. For I think that if we can get what Paul tells us in verses 12-17 the rest is no problem.

The key to a successful marriage and Christian life is found in verses 12-17. And if we are what those verses teach then verses 18 and 19 are natural and easy.

- I. It is what we put on.
  - A. Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on
  - B. Put on is from *enduo*, which means "to put on clothes," or "envelope in." The qualities that follow are to cover the new man. *MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Colossians and Philemon*.
    1. tender mercies
      - a. means "pity," "mercy," "sympathy," or "compassion." Taken together, the phrase could be translated, "put on heartfelt compassion," or "have a deep, gut-level feeling of compassion." *MacArthur*
      - b. Matthew 9:36 (NKJV) 36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.
    2. kindness
      - a. Kindness is closely related to compassion. The Greek term refers to the grace that pervades the whole person, mellowing all that might be harsh. Jesus used the word when he said, "My yoke is easy"

(Matt. 11:30), not harsh or hard to bear. *MacArthur*

3. humility,
  4. meekness,
  5. longsuffering;
- C. It is what we do
1. bearing with one another,
  2. and forgiving one another,
    - a. if anyone has a complaint against another;
    - b. even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.
- II. But Above ALL else
- A. 14 But above all these things put on love,
1. which is the bond of perfection.
- III. Let peace umpire the game
- A. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts,
1. The word rule comes from the language of athletics: Paul wanted the believers to let Christ's peace be umpire or referee in their hearts. Peace would arbitrate, decide any argument, and thereby restrain any of the passions of the old nature that might threaten. Peace would settle any friction and strife so the believers could remain strong and unified. *Life Application Bible Commentary- Philippians, Colossians, & Philemon.*
- B. to which also you were called in one body;
- IV. Always giving thanks.
- A. and be thankful.
- B. V-17 giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
- V. It is what we let live in us that matters
- A. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
- VI. And don't forget who you are doing it for.
- A. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,