

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR

MAY 3, 2020

COLOSSIANS 3:18-19

<sup>18</sup>Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup>Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

STUDY IT

- **Review:** How could you summarize verses 1-17 in one phrase or sentence? Why does Paul remind the church of a call to love one another before describing his advice to wives and husbands?
- What does submission and service to a spouse look like?
- What does “as is fitting in the Lord” mean?
- Why might Paul have been led to make these specific recommendations to the church in Colossae? What might have been the “symptoms” of unhealthy marriages?

Study tip: Colossians chapter 1 deals with Jesus’ dominion over all things. Paul has taken on one of the dominant themes of pagan worship: *syncretism*. Archaeological study has revealed much about such worship of many spirits and deities. This nurtured a false belief that led people to mix magic and amulets to “control” the supernatural powers. Thus, a theme of power and dominion seems to rear its ugly head in cultures like these.

- In light of the above, how might a pagan-worshipping culture be affected by a “Christian marriage” where wives demonstrate trusting submission and husbands demonstrate tenderness?
- How does Christ (and Christlikeness) bring healing into a marriage?
- Notice how these instructions are given to each wives and husbands. In addressing each personally, how are men to read verse 18? Conversely, how are women to read verse 19?

APPLY IT

- Are verses 18-19 attributes of your marriage? If you’re not married, what about these verses seem to be healthy descriptions of a marital relationship?
- Where in your relationships might submission be needed?
- Where in your relationships might tenderness be needed?
- What are the ways that Christians have abused these instructions? How do verses 12-17 help Christians avoid such misuse?

**Wives:** take some time to write down some ways you want God to bring more humility and trust into your relationship with your husband.

**Husbands:** take some time to write down some ways you want God to help you love your wife with the same joy and honor as Christ loves his Church. Write down the ways you want the Spirit to remove any anger or bitterness against her.