

## What A Good Marriage Looks Like - Colossians 3:18-19 - August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- It probably goes without saying but the text that's before us today has been the source of much in the way of misunderstanding.
- This because, of the misinterpretation in which a Biblical truth is taken to an un-Biblical end, which leads to conflict in marriage.
- It's my hope that today's teaching will be of help to you concerning the Christian marriage and what a good marriage looks like.

- In order to better understand what the Apostle Paul is saying, it's of paramount importance to know what submit literally means.
- Namely, that of being under in rank in the sense of the military having different ranks as generals' colonels majors captains etc.
- While someone may have a higher rank than another, it in no way means that they are superior to the one with the lower rank.

I like how Warren Wiersbe said it, "Anyone who has served in the armed forces knows that 'rank' has to do with order and authority, not with value or ability. ...Just as an army would be in confusion if there were no levels of authority, so society would be in chaos without submission."

- It's with this understanding that our text concerning wives begins to make sense such that, it speaks to this authority structure.
- The ordained authority structure is Christ is the covering head of the husband and the husband is the covering head of the wife.
- I use covering in the context of the awesome responsibility that comes packaged with being placed in the position of authority.

- It's for this reason that the onus is on the husband to love his wife and not be harsh with her or mean to her as an authoritarian.
- In Ephesians 5, Paul lists three ways husbands are to love their wives, the first is as Christ loved the church and gave Himself.
- Secondly, to love her as he loves his own body, and the third is the husband is to love her as much as he already loves himself.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones - No husband is entitled to say that he is the head of the wife unless he loves his wife ... So the reign of the husband is to be a reign and a rule of love; it is a leadership of love."

Here's the bottom line: if a husband will love his wife as Christ loves the church, and gives himself up for her, and loves her the same way he loves, cares, and provides for the needs of his own body, making her the most important person in his life next to the Lord, and loves her and values her as much as he loves himself, then his wife will have absolutely no problem whatsoever submitting to him, and being respectful toward him.