

Lesson 25  
Colossians 3:18 (Part I)

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\*\*\* Start Recorder \*\*\*



**Announcements:**

- **Embracing Destiny Foundation (EDF):** Meets TODAY.
  - A ministry of Iron Men and staffed by us.
  - Still needing 2-3 volunteer counselors.
  - Background check release form.
- **Building the Ministry:** *You need us; we need you!*
  - Each of us is here because we were invited.
  - Make a *habit* of inviting men to join us.
  - Invite your church buddies and other men of the church.
  - Invite dad, adult sons, uncles, cousins, neighbors, and co-workers.
  - Invite any adult male believer without a church home.
- **Small Groups Forming Now:**
  - Bring your Bibles and perhaps a notebook or a prayer journal.
  - Several have stepped up to lead; need to form a new group.
  - You may be invited to join a group, but you can choose your own.

**Colossians 3:18 (Pt. I)**  
(27-Jan-2024)

Read: Co 3:18-25

**Colossians 3:18 (NOTES)**

- **“Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”**

**Discussion:** Before discussing the meaning of this verse, I think the first question we should consider is, why do you suppose God finds it necessary to inspire Paul to issue this command?

- It is the true nature of fallen women to rebel against their husbands, to desire to control them, and thereby to control their marital relationships, and as a result, to control their lives together. It is the natural state of women to desire to control their men.
- The first woman, Eve, was not created with this fault. She was created sinless. But Eve brought this desire to rule over her husband upon herself at the fall, when God cursed her, and all her female descendants, with the desire to rule over their husbands. This is why there exists early in many marital relationships a struggle over who will "wear the pants," so to speak. This struggle often continues throughout a couple's married life. This is why you will hear men say about their wives, "She's the boss!" This is why there is a feminist movement today. This is why a "Battle of the Sexes" has raged down through the ages and continues in all its shame to this day. It all began with Eve's rebellion against God in the Garden.

- Gen 4:3-9 “Ge 4:3 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground. Ge 4:4 Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; Ge 4:5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry, and his countenance fell. Ge 4:6 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? Ge 4:7 “If you do well, will not [your countenance] be lifted up? And if you do not do well, **sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.**” Ge 4:8 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. Ge 4:9 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”
- What does God mean when He says, “ ... if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it”? Sin is not a person or a force, but if Cain gives in to the temptation to kill his brother (God knows the thoughts and intents of Cain’s heart), sin will become his master, will rule his life, and he will involve himself in a lifelong struggle against sin’s control over his life, perhaps even the sin of murder.
- When Eve fell into the transgression of eating the forbidden fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden, God cursed her with the desire to rule over her husband, and by extension, God cursed all women with the desire to rebel against and rule over the significant men in their lives. The indication is that she will now desire to control her husband, and that her husband will have to struggle to maintain his leadership role.
- Ge 3:16 "To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet **your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.**"

- This Hebrew phrasing is identical in both the Cain and Abel account of Genesis 4 and the Adam and Eve account in Genesis 3, with the exception of the gender changes: “desire” - tēshuwqah [tesh-oo-kaw’] = as a beast desires to devour its prey; and “rule/master” - mashal [maw-shal’] = to exercise dominion over. These phrases are found nowhere else in the Scriptures except in these two Gen 3 and 4 passages.
- Women were cursed at the fall with the desire to exercise dominion over the men in their lives. This is why God finds it necessary to inspire Paul to issue this explicit command. In this present Colossians passage, God repeats the command He originally inspired Paul to issue in a more potent and clarifying way in Ephesians 5.
- Eph 5:22:24 “Wives, [be subject] to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself [being] the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives [ought to be] to their husbands in everything.”
- It is important to note that a wife’s submission to her husband is commanded by God, not her husband. Thus, rebellion against her husband is actually rebellion against God. You cannot make your wife submit to you as husband and spiritual head and authority, but you can avoid surrendering that ground to her. Complaining to the Lord, “It’s the wife you gave me,” did not work for Adam, and it will not work for us. Our job is to lead in love; our wives’ job is to submit to that leadership. If she refuses, her issue is with the Lord, and her sin is against the Lord. If we allow our wives to rule our homes, then our sin is that of abdication of our position.

**Application:** Were there any new concepts you picked up today? Is there anything you’re having trouble accepting in these doctrines? Did anything stand out that may prompt you to do further study? Do you feel confident that you can explain the doctrines of deity and trinity to your family, other believers, nonbelievers?

**Closing Benediction:** Jude 1:24-25 *“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen.”*

**Closing Prayer**

**Small Groups**