

Colossians 3:19

3:19 Christian husbands must soberly obey Christ's requirement to love wives without bitterness.

1. The LORD first established the wife's subordinate position, now He now commands his love.
2. In marriage the man can become a bully, become bored, or become bitter toward his wife.
3. Bullying results from misunderstanding the roles and her submission, boredom by familiarity, contempt, and outside influences, and bitterness by not forgiving her disappointing failures.
4. So the Lord Jesus Christ corrects all three errors in one simple text that strongly grabs all men.
5. Here are two commandments for husbands – one positive and one negative, for them to do.
6. The positive command is to love his wife; the negative prohibition is against marital bitterness.
7. As we learned or remembered in 3:2, love is not a fateful accident, but rather a sober choice.
8. Bullying is hiding treachery in your spirit and becoming an oppressor with your privilege.
9. Boredom is natural for monogamy, where the Spirit of God is not ruling the man's passions.
10. Bitterness results from having excessive expectations, which they will not meet perfectly.
11. Bitterness results from not dwelling with your wife in knowledge and mercy (I Peter 3:7).
12. Coupled with Proverbs 5:19, there are two texts that positively require perfect husbands!
13. Each of the three clauses in this verse is imperative, meaning you are to do each of them.
14. They prescribe tenderness, sexual contentment, and romantic excitement as godly duties.
15. A marriage fundamentally needs the wife to submit; then it needs the husband to love.
16. A marriage without her submission is anarchy; a marriage without his love is cruel tyranny.
17. Let us also consider Ex 21:10-11; Prov 5:19; Malachi 2:10-16; Ephesians 5:24-33; I Peter 3:7.
18. The definition of love in I Corinthians 13:4-7 certainly would enhance most marriages today.
19. There would only be very tender marriages, if husbands treated their wives by that standard.
20. Since the woman was made for the man, his love includes selfish objectives (Eph 5:25-28).
21. Solomon taught his son to be ravished by his wife's love and her body (Proverbs 5:19).
22. Love includes the romantic element of tender regard and praise for his wife (Solomon's Song).
23. Sex, as all of marriage, is primarily for the man; but she has as much right to sex (I Cor 7:3-5).