

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

# How to Be a Godly Man

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Colossians 3:18-4:1

**1 What is your idea of a godly man?**

**Some think real men are strong, athletic, aggressive and assertive with women. I was none of the above!**

**According to the Bible, godly men are the ones who have the mind and behavior characteristics of the Lord.**

**This scripture gives guidance to how Christian men should conduct themselves in three areas of their lives. 2**

**Colossians, chapter 3, verses 18 through chapter 4, verse 1, reads, *Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on***

you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. <sup>1</sup> <sub>3</sub>

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism. Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven. <sup>2</sup> <sub>4</sub>

The first area of your life is . . .

## I. In Relationship to Your Wife – v19

In your relationship to your wife. <sup>5</sup> Verse 19 says, **Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.**

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<sup>1</sup> 3:18-22.

<sup>2</sup> 3:23-4:1.



God wants you to **love** her. <sup>6</sup> Love, in the original language, <sup>3</sup> means to give of yourself to satisfy someone's needs. The King James Version translated this word "charity". <sup>7</sup>

You love her by giving of yourself to satisfy her needs. You take care of her. You do this continually. <sup>4</sup> First Timothy, chapter 5, verse 8, **If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.** <sup>8</sup>

You love her when she first gets up in the morning. <sup>9</sup> You love her when she's irritable. <sup>10</sup> You love her when she feels unworthy. <sup>11</sup>

You love her enough to be willing to die for her if necessary. Ephesians, chapter 5, verse 25, **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.** <sup>12</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> ἀγαπάω.

<sup>4</sup> Greek present tense.

You love her like you do your own body. Ephesians, chapter 5, verses 28 and 29, In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church . . . 13

God wants you not to be **harsh** with her. 14 Harsh, in the original language, <sup>5</sup> means to make bitter. Do you embitter your wife? 15

In fact, you need to treat her with respect and dignity if you want your prayers to be heard. That's right! First Peter, chapter 3, verse 7, **Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers**. 16

And, be sure to fulfill your marital duties for her. That's in First Corinthians, chapter 7, verses 3 through 5, **The husband should fulfill his marital duty**

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<sup>5</sup> πικραίνω.

to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. <sup>17</sup> Notice in verse 4 here that your body belongs to your wife. <sup>18</sup> And, in verse 5, your wife has the right to your affection! <sup>19</sup>

The second area of your life is . . .

## II. In Relationship to Your Children – v21

In relationship to your children. <sup>20</sup> Verse 21, **Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.**

Verse 21 says not to **embitter** them. <sup>21</sup> Embitter <sup>6</sup> literally means to stir up (emotionally). <sup>22</sup> It's a

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<sup>6</sup> ἐρεθίζω.



**different word than “harsh” in verse 19. In verse 19 it means to embitter your wife so she will hold a grudge and be hurt. Here, it means to provoke your children to anger. <sup>23</sup>**

**What is the reason for this command? Your children could become discouraged with life. <sup>24</sup> Discourage means to lose their spirit. <sup>25</sup> It’s the opposite of being enthused with life. <sup>26</sup>**

**So, how do you discourage children? <sup>27</sup> When you aren’t pleased with them no matter how hard they try. <sup>28</sup> When you want for them what they don’t want for themselves. For example; expecting your son to excel in sports when he would rather sing in the choir. <sup>29</sup> When you’re too severe with discipline, “Girl! You’re grounded for a month!” <sup>30</sup>**

**And the final area is . . .**

### III. In Relationship to the People

#### You Work With – v22-4:1

In relationship to the people you work with. <sup>31</sup>

In verses 22 through 25, it's your relationship as an **employee**. <sup>32</sup>

In verse 22, it says, **Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Obey** <sup>7</sup> means to listen attentively. Do what your boss says! <sup>33</sup> Do it even when the boss is not supervising you. <sup>34</sup> Obey with respect, fear and sincerity as though Lord Jesus was your boss! <sup>8</sup> <sup>35</sup> In fact, obey your earthly boss because you actually are serving Lord Jesus by doing it! <sup>9</sup> <sup>36</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> ὑπακούω.

<sup>8</sup> Ephesians 6:5 - Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.

<sup>9</sup> Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.



Your Christian witness is enhanced when people see you work using your Christian principles. Notice Titus, chapter 2, verses 9 and 10, **Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.** 37

**Do your work to the best of your ability all the time!** 10

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Now, chapter 4, verse 1, **Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.** As an **employer**, live by the Golden Rule! Treat your employees the way you would want to be treated if you were one of them. In actuality, you will be held accountable to your boss in heaven. 39

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<sup>10</sup> Colossians 3:23 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men . . .

**Real Christian men are not measured by the standards of this world but by the Bible. Real men are men of faith and character. To the degree that you are Christ-like in your relationship to your wife, your children and your work associates; to that degree, you will be a real man!**

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