

20 March

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Book of Colossians – week 9

 Let's hear your story

1. What is Paul telling wives to do in Colossians 3:18? **(Wives submit to your husbands as is fitting in the Lord.)**
2. Does v.18 mean that women should submit to men in general? **(No, Paul was referring to married women.)**
3. What is the context of v.18 that Paul refers to? **(v.18 is written in the context of marriage and order in the family.)**
4. What does Ephesians 5:23 say? **(The husband is head of the wife.)**

 Let's go deeper

5. What does it mean that the husband is the head of the wife? **(He has a God-given leadership role and responsibility in the family.)**
6. What is Paul telling husbands to do in v.19? **(Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh (unloving) with them. ESV)**
7. How can a husband be harsh (unloving) to his wife? **(Domineering, physical and verbal abuse, publicly humiliating his wife.)**
8. What does Ecclesiastes 9:9 ESV say? **(Enjoy life with the wife whom you love...)**. This verse encourages husbands to have fun with their wife and family.

 Let's apply this

9. **v.19;** Husbands love your wives, and do not be harsh (unloving) with them.

Paul encourages husbands to invest, value, prioritize and work on their friendship with their wife.

Husbands how can you invest in your friendship with your wife:

- How can you serve, support and encourage your wife this week?
- How can you meet the needs of your wife and children this week?
- Selfishness breaks down a friendship, and serving strengthens a friendship, how can you serve your family this week?
- Allow the Holy Spirit to speak and to empower you this week.

SUMMARY:

- **Colossians: Week 9 (Enjoy your marriage)**

Read: Colossians 3:18 – 19

Background and context: Most people lived in a single-story home it was fairly simple and, on the top, there was a flat roof and the father would have that as his domain, he would have the area upstairs. If you had a wealthy family and it was a two-story home, the father would live upstairs. Oftentimes the wife and kids would live downstairs. And that really tells you not only how it was physically but also emotionally and spiritually that the husband was over the wife that the father was over the children that they were under his feet. And that you are not allowed to go upstairs if you were a wife or a child. The father was allowed to come downstairs at any time for any reason but you were not allowed to go into his domain.

v.18; SEVEN things it does not say:

1. This does not speak to single people; this is for married couples only.
2. This does not speak to an arena outside of the home.
3. This does not say a wife needs to obey her husband.
4. This does not mean that the wife is less valuable or less competent.
5. This does not mean that men are superior and women are inferior.
6. This does not mean that a wife cannot seek to influence her husband.
7. This does not mean there is a particular personality type for a wife and husband.

FOUR things to wives:

1. The husband is the head of the family, but husband and wife lead together.
2. Both husband and wife can be domineering.
3. How you treat your husband sets an example for how your children will treat you.
4. Should you submit to your husband if he's telling you to do something sinful? **No**.

v.19; EIGHT ways a husband can be harsh (unloving) to his wife:

1. A husband can be domineering and controlling.
2. Making more withdrawals (corrections and criticism) than deposits (encouraging).
3. Being physically and verbally abusive (intimidating, yelling, name-calling, cursing).
4. Publicly humiliating and belittling your wife before others.
5. A contractual view (selfish) and not a covenantal view (selfless) of marriage.
6. A non-relational marriage style (other relationships are more NB than your wife).
7. Being no fun. Husband is stressed, overworked, negative. (See Ecclesiastes 9:9).
8. Husband is inconsiderate. Making decisions without thinking of implications.

THREE things to husbands:

1. God wants you to be a loving, safe, healthy, life-giving place for His daughter.
2. Husbands you are the head of the home. Takes responsibility for the decisions.
3. Husband love your wife; invest, value and work on your friendship with your wife.