

Sunday Series

Autumn 2022

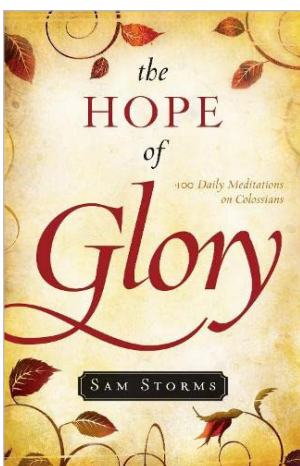
## What is the series about?

As life rolls by we all put things at the centre of our lives. For some of us it's family, friends or our career. For others it's our house or our well-being. In this series we will discover that true life is only found if Jesus takes centre stage in our lives. Join us on a Sunday at one of our three locations to follow along.

## Recommended Reading

**The Hope of Glory**

Sam Storms



## Listen to the audio

On the King's Norwich website at:

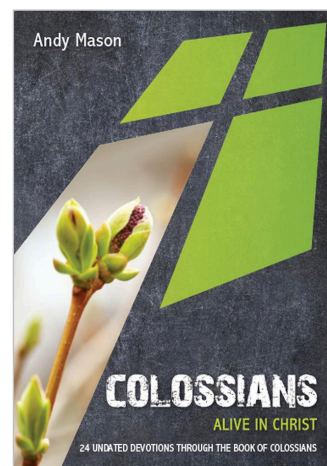
[kingsnorwich.com/on-demand](https://kingsnorwich.com/on-demand)

## LIFE Group OneStop

Find all the latest resources to run your LIFE Group: [www.kingsnorwich.com/colossians](https://www.kingsnorwich.com/colossians)

**Colossians, Alive in Christ**

Andy Mason



**LIFE Groups: Learning, Integration, Friendship, Everyone a witness**



## Title: God's Good Design

Speaker: Paul & Jude Hatton (City West) Bible Ref: Colossians 3: 18-19

### Overview

We've got to the point in Colossians where Paul addresses the household. In verses 18 and 19 the focus is on marriages and how a husband and wife are to relate to one another. Through this passage, alongside *Ephesians 5* and *1 Peter 3* we see this beautiful dynamic of Godly authority and Godly submission being played out between a husband and wife. To God, authority and submission are very beautiful things – part of God's good design for human flourishing.

Authority and submission are defined by relationships - in some relationships we are in authority and some relationships we are in submission. As we approach this subject, let's recognise our own feelings and biases on this subject and make a heart-felt effort to seek God's ways on this, trusting that His ways will lead to fruitfulness and His glory.

### Authority and submission in the Bible

1. How does our culture view authority and submission?
2. Who does God call both men and women to submit to? (*Ans. God, government, leaders*)
3. Read *Genesis 1:26-28* and discuss the authority that God has given to both men and women.
4. Read *Colossians 3:18-19*. This passage is about the marriage relationship specifically. We'll look at how Godly authority and Godly submission is worked out in this particular relationship.

### Godly authority

5. Read *Ephesians 5:23-33*. Who are the parallels of the husband and the wife in this metaphor? Any observations and comments on the husband's parallel being Jesus and the wife's parallel being the Church.

From this passage and others we can define authority as *"A divine calling to Self-Sacrificial Servant Leadership"*

6. Read *Philippians 2:5-8* – Jesus used his authority for the benefit of others. How can a husband practically use his God given authority for the benefit of his wife?

### Godly submission

The Greek word for submission in all the places it calls wives to submit is *hypotassó*. *hypo* = under / *tasso* = arrange. Submission therefore means 'to arrange under'. We can therefore define Godly submission as a *"Divine calling to honour and affirm her husband's leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts"* (John Piper)

7. Read *1 Peter 3:1-6* and discuss how the wife's submission is described. Hone in on it being a beautiful thing, an unfading beauty, and a heart attitude. It's a heart that says *"I delight in you taking initiative, in you being active & present in our marriage & our family. I am glad when you take responsibility and lead in love."*
8. Encourage married couples to share what submission looks like practically within their marriage.

End by affirming authority and submission in relationships as a good thing. Finish by pointing people to Jesus. He is the only one who has ever used authority perfectly and the only one who has ever submitted perfectly. We have woefully fallen short in this. When we repent, turn to Jesus and put our trust for salvation in him, he gives us his perfect record, justifying us. This is the good news of the Gospel.