

Structure of the Home

Col. 3:18-21

INTRODUCTION:

All Stand and Read Scripture

Colossians 3:18-21 (NASB)

¹⁸ Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. ²⁰ Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

Prayer

People are going to look at this passage this morning and say "Oh no! I am shutting him out right now. I do not want to hear this!"

When I was choosing which book I wanted to preach from last October, I saw these verses and had second thought as to whether I should choose it. So, this week when I was contemplating the sermon, I thought to myself "**How am I going to handle this one? There are no young families with young children and some here have outlived their spouses.**" As I thought about it, my thoughts turned to "What would God want **US** to learn from this passage of scripture?"

It is about the **structure of the home**. I don't know about you, but I would like to think that I strive to have a Christian household. And here is what I know for sure, I need a lot of instruction!

Back in Genesis, when God first created the world, he stated that the earth was "**formless and void**" and He wanted to bring order to it. So He created light, the heavens, dry land, plants, the animals, and mankind. When you look at His creation, you recognize that it is orderly.

God wants our lives to be structured and orderly as well. If there is no order in your business, or your school, or life, what is it? CHAOS! Nobody gets any good out of it. So this passage was written so that we could find order in our families.

I would like to go back to verse 17 because it prefaces the whole passage. It says this...

Colossians 3:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

The first thing that He is telling us is that do everything to glorify of God. This includes your home and everywhere else.

The problem with this passage is the very first line and we tend to never get past it. I do not want that to be the case today, however, I am going to talk about it for just a little bit.

One of the problems with preaching through books, is that you can't skip any of it. And here is the deal, I don't want to. God's Word was written for us in a certain way and there are certain messages that He wants us to hear. Many churches only want to preach about the "**feel good**" parts. That is what God's Word is, the good news, but inside there are things that people don't want to address. But, it is important that we apply **ALL** of God's Word to our lives. In order to have a strong Christian family home, we **MUST** understand the direction of the Father. I truly believe that! Let's look at it for just a little bit.

BODY:

I. The Role of the Wife.

Colossians 3:18 (NASB)

18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Wives, submit yourselves to your husband", that is the only thing that people hear and they react by saying "there's that SUBMIT word again! I hate that word! I am NOT going to do that and the rest of the passage is ignored.

Well if you have already shut me off, I am sorry. I really hope you will listen.

Here is what the verse doesn't mean.

- It doesn't mean that the wife is a doormat.
- It doesn't mean that the husband is supreme ruler over the wife.
- It doesn't mean that we are to do as the cavemen are portrayed of pulling their wife down the hall by their hair and laughing about it. That sent a really bad message. That is about as far from the Biblical message as there is.

That is not what this passage talks about. It does not imply any amount of inferiority or superiority to the spouse or one of the sexes.

In none of the commentaries that I read on this passage, did I see that the husband was the **supreme ruler** of the house and **anything he says goes**.

The scripture says **submit to your husband, as is fitting in the Lord**. Don't forget those last words "**as is fitting in the Lord**" because that is what glues it all together. That is what makes it right.

Paul first tells us "**Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**" and then he tells wives to "**submit to your husband, as is fitting in the Lord**".

The Lord set up certain structures and He set up structures within the church and in the Christian family. If you look back at Ephesians 5:22 ff., you will find a parallel passage with a little more detail. This passage is straight and to the point.

This "submission" is a totally voluntary act on the part of the wife **AFTER** the husband has done everything that HE is supposed to do in a Christian home.

So wives, if you thought I was going to preach to you about submission, you are partially right, but more importantly, I am going to preach to the husbands about their role in the Christian family.

The scriptures speak to the equality of Christians.

Galatians 3:26-28 (NASB)

²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

The scriptures say we are equal. So as spouses, we should be saying, "If you do your job, I will do mine". The husband has the supreme responsibility to take care of your Christian home and then all of these other things will fall below that.

ILLUSTRATION:

By the way, in your home is everybody good at everything? **NO!** There are certain things that I can do like using the jigs that I have built for my power tools that June would have no clue how to use. There are things June can do on the computer, that I didn't even consider was possible.

We are different. I understand that and that is **HOW** I want it to be. Understanding that there are differences is Christ like. He intended for us to have different roles.

That is how our roles were structured by God. He gave men things to do and he gave women things to do. When we live up to our responsibility of doing the things set out for us to do, it all works out.

It expresses an obligation that when the woman submits to the leadership of her husband and the husband follows God intentions for him, she is fulfilled and so is he.

When it all works the way it is supposed to, it is an amazing relationship. It is Christ first, then all of us.

II. The Role of the Husband.

Colossians 3:19 (NASB)

19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

Husbands, here is our part.

It is our responsibility as the head of the home, to be the Christian father and the Christian husband that we are supposed to be as in the Lord and all of these other things will work. Or at least they have the opportunity to work.

Unconditional love, is a love that requires a continuous action. It requires that we have a desire to be a loving Christ-like husband and father.

If a husband wants to accept the responsibility of being the ruler of the house, then he must accept the responsibilities given to him by God. He is supposed to take care of his family and look to God as his guidance according to His Word.

We have to fulfill our role as Godly men and fathers if we want the blessing from above.

Ephesians 5:25 (NASB)

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

What did Jesus do for the church? He gave His life up for the church (for you and me). He came to this earth and He gave us instructions that told us what to do and how to be. He **loved** us so much that He went to the cross to die for you and me.

Now, husbands, this scripture tells us to love our wives just as Christ loved the church.

Do you know what that says? It says "I promise you that I will give up my life, I will give up everything I own and receive for you! You are the most important thing in my life. I will take care of you no matter what. Because that is what I am to do for the Father. That is what He did for me."

This is how we learn and understand love. That right there! There are all kinds of definitions for love. If you really want to understand what love is, it is the fact that Jesus gave up His life for me. He said that I was more important to Him than anything else and He gave up His life for me and for you and the church.

Let's think about this again. **For the wife to give voluntary submission to the husband she has to trust that he is going to use his leadership only for her advantage.**

We have to love one another and trust one another and take care of our problems.

Men it is our place not to break that trust. It calls for patience.

III. The Role of the Children.

Colossians 3:20 (NASB)

20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

There are no young children here. I wish that were not so, but I am sure that the day will come when we will once again see children in this service.

We can use this as a guide on how to take care of our grandchildren and great grandchildren. They are to be obedient to their parents and to their grandparents. Why? Because it is well-pleasing to the Lord.

What happens in a home where there is no authority? It goes completely awry. It is a wreck! There are no rules. The kids and much of the world will tell you that that is freedom and that's wonderful! **That's not wonderful!** Kids don't know or care when they are to come home. By the way, do you know what that actually conveys? It conveys that you do not care when they come home!

When you tell them, "**Be home by 10:00**". It tells them that you care. That you love them. That you don't want to lay awake until 4:00 in the morning worrying about them and praying that they are OK.

Obedience reveals an understanding of authority that can carry over to all kinds of understanding. When kids don't understand authority they get into all kinds of trouble. Kids from families that understand authority rarely have problems. This is why God taught us as parents to teach obedience to our children.

They understand that when they are not obedient, there are consequences. Most of the time they are not upset about it because they understand authority. Kids need and want parameters.

Prisons are full of young men and women who do not understand or respect authority.

IV. The Role of the Father.

Colossians 3:21 (NASB)

²¹ Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

Parents, grandparents, we can over do it. We are there to discipline them and take care of them, but there is a fine line. He says we must discipline them in love and treat them as God treats people.

- You can overprotect.
- You can show favoritism.
- You can be over critical.
- You can over discipline.
- You can show them lack of affection.
- You can have unrealistic goals.

ILLUSTRATION:

Have any of you seen parents who had a kid in sports and thought he should eventually become a major league baseball player? So, nothing that he does is ever quite good enough. The kid does not get the encouragement that he wants and needs and becomes exasperated. They tell them about their lofty expectations and break their hearts.

The way you treat your kids is a fine line between enough and too much. There is no rule book on exactly how to do it. But the Bible has this one: **Love your children and spouse in your home as Christ loved you.** There are rules, but there are also grace.

CONCLUSION:

How many still remember the first verse in this message? I hope you now realize that it not the main message in this passage of scripture.

It is about knowing Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. It is the understanding that He is the authority above all things and that He makes structure. When you live by that structure, He will bless you beyond your wildest imagination.

If we could just fix our homes, we could fix our society.

If you do not know Christ as your Lord and Savior, I invite you to come. Don't wait until you have cleaned up your life. **You don't clean yourself up to come to the Christ; you surrender yourself to Christ, to let Him clean you up!**

He Is Lord!

He is Lord, He is Lord. He has risen from the dead and He is Lord.
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, That Jesus Christ is Lord.