



## Lesson #4: Your Family (Colossians 3:18-21)

When you consider the biblical narrative, you see many family relationships that were broken by \_\_\_\_\_. Today's stories are not different; \_\_\_\_\_ destroys family relationships and therefore our world has very few models of God's design for the family. In fact, today we even see the effects of sin as we define family \_\_\_\_\_.

Colossians 3:18-21 summarize idealistically how a family "in Christ" will live together and interact with one another. As the new humanity that Christ is recreating will be characterized by the virtues we looked at last week (Colossians 3:12-17), so these virtues should first come to define the most intimate unit of relationships – the \_\_\_\_\_. **It is within the walls of our home that our gospel ministry must begin.**

This passage does indeed set an \_\_\_\_\_ standard for a Christian home, but an idealistic standard is appropriate, for after all, we are the "elect of God, holy, and beloved" (Col. 3:12). Since our position is heavenly so should be our standard for our home. In this passage Paul addresses each key role within the home and provides a key characteristic to wrap themselves up with.

### CHRIST-CENTERED WIVES ARE TO BE \_\_\_\_\_ (3:18)

Throughout Scripture, submission is commanded of many groups. We are all to submit to masters (Titus 2:9), government (Romans 13:5), one another (Ephesians 5:21), our leaders (1 Peter 5:5), and ultimately God (Romans 8:7). The kind of submission that wives are to show husbands is the same kind of submission we are all called to show. \_\_\_\_\_ is devoid of this command.

- A. Because of her \_\_\_\_\_ - "as unto the Lord" (Eph. 5:22)**  
A believing wife is "heavenly minded" as outlined in Col. 3:1-4 and therefore sees all of her behavior as done to \_\_\_\_\_ Christ. Therefore, the wife's submission to her husband highlights submission that is even sweet and more significant – her submission to \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Because of her \_\_\_\_\_ - "as fitting in the Lord" (Col. 3:18)**  
Some worldly behaviors don't "fit" with her new relationship with Christ. As sister of Christ will model her older brother (Jesus) and practice the new response of \_\_\_\_\_ that he practiced (ex. Luke 2:51) for that "fits" her position of being "in the Lord."

### CHRIST-CENTERED HUSBANDS ARE TO BE \_\_\_\_\_ (3:19)

Love is simply \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ action on the behalf of another. Love is an action not emotion.

- A. Because he is tempted towards \_\_\_\_\_**  
Complimenting Paul's command for husbands to love their wives is his command for husbands to "be not bitter against them." The best remedy for bitterness is to positively display the same love of \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Because he is tied to God's \_\_\_\_\_**  
Peter warned husbands that they had better take this command to love seriously "that your \_\_\_\_\_ be not hindered" (1 Peter 3:7). While God must bless us for us to love, there is also a sense in which He will not bless us unless we love.

### CHRIST-CENTERED CHILDREN ARE TO BE \_\_\_\_\_ (3:20)

While children soon learn that obedience makes life easier, they need to be reminded that their relationship with \_\_\_\_\_ is the bottom line reason for their parents' insistence upon obedience.

- A. Because it matches their \_\_\_\_\_**  
As we saw with wives, believing children are to be obedient "in the \_\_\_\_\_." If a child does not understand his position in Christ then his pursuit of obedience will probably be mere \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Because it \_\_\_\_\_ God**  
Obedience certainly pleases the Lord which would mean that disobedience \_\_\_\_\_ God. 1 Samuel 15:22-23 says disobedience is on par with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_! In the OT the punishment in some cases for rebellious children was \_\_\_\_\_ (Deuteronomy 21:18-21)

### CHRIST-CENTERED PARENTS ARE TO BE \_\_\_\_\_ (3:21)

Although verse 21 is translated "fathers," the *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* demonstrates that when the word is used in its plural form (as it is here) it can refer to \_\_\_\_\_ parents. This exhortation is to dad and mom.

- A. Graciousness avoids \_\_\_\_\_ the child**  
The word "provoke" means "to cause someone to react in a way that suggest acceptance of a challenge; to \_\_\_\_\_." While parents must certainly enact discipline and practice guidance they must do so with wisdom and \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Graciousness actively \_\_\_\_\_ the child**  
On the flip side, gracious parents are not only gracious in their spirit towards their children, but they are also gracious in their \_\_\_\_\_ of actively disciplining their child. You could translate the verse this way: "Take them by the hand and \_\_\_\_\_ them in the way of the Master."