

Theme: The extraordinary relationship and life we have with the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ is exhibited not primarily in spectacular acts of service and accomplishment – but in the redeeming of our most common, ordinary relationships and responsibilities. Christ's glory and grace is seen in the everyday spheres and relationships of the family, work and community.

Background & Introduction

I. The Big Surprise

A. Offending the "modern" mind

1. Low view of women - submission
 - Following the modern cultural norm:
 - 1st - Human happiness is based in "independent freedom"
 - 2nd - You are diminished as a person, inferior to your husband
2. Restraining children's personal development
3. Supporting slavery? (Deuteronomy 24:7)
4. Our moral superiority?

B. The real surprise

1. The elevation of the ordinary!
 - a. The Christian life at home
 - This is where it is put to the test
 - b. The gospel life is a "this worldly" affair
2. Our dignity and equality in Christ (Galatians 3:28)
3. Culturally relevant?
 - The issues are not cultural but biblical and distinctly Christian

II. The Perfect Order

NOTE: Must remember - Greek philosophers regarded the household as the basic unit of the state. Order there would lead to order in the state.

A. Wives v. 3:18

1. Submit to your husbands
 - Paul doesn't challenge the legal order
 - Not a "command" but an instruction
 - As distinction in "order" or place - not in value
2. The call to "order": James 4:7; Romans 8:7; Ephesians 5:21; Ephesians 5:24; Romans 13:1; 1 Corinthians 16:16; Luke 2:51
3. Fitting in the Lord
 - a. Not because the culture says so, but because God desires it
 - b. A guard against abuse

B. Husbands v. 3:19

1. Love your wives!
 - Their well-being is in your hands, your responsibility
 - Exercise his love rather than rights
2. "Do not be harsh with them"
 - a. The wife submits to love - not harshness.
 - b. Possible translation: "become embittered (or resentful) toward her"

III. The New Order

A. What does the radical Christian life look like? (Colossians 3:12-14)

Submitting or leading in:

- Compassion
- Kindness
- Meekness
- Patience
- Bearing with one another
- Forgiving each other

B. Christ's order or the culture's