

**“Family Matters”**  
**Colossians 3:18-21**

**Introduction:**

1. Let's Go Back In Our Bibles This Morning:
  - To Colossians 3 - Where The Apostle Paul:
    - Has Been Showing Us - What It Is Like:
      - For The Christian - To Have Jesus Christ:
        - Number One In His / Her Life!
  - It Means That:
    - In The Words Of 3:17:
      - “Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him!”
      - Now - Is This How You Sought To Live Your Life Last Week?
2. If So - There Were:
  - Some Things In Your Life:
    - That You Needed To “Put Off” - Like:
      - 3:8-9 - Anger & Wrath & Malice & Blasphemy & Filthy Communication & Lying!
      - And You Can Do This Because:
        - “Ye Have Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds!”
        - But There Were Also:
    - Some Things In Your Life:
      - That You Needed To Keep “Putting On” - Like:
        - 3:12-14 - Bowels Of Mercies & Kindness & Humbleness Of Mind & Meekness & Longsuffering & Forbearance & Forgiveness & Love!
        - And You Can Do This:
          - Because - 3:10 - “Ye Have Put On The New Man, Which Is Renewed After The Image Of Him That Created Him!”
  - 3. So Now - There's Been A Great Change In Your Life!
    - And You Are Conforming:
      - More & More To The:
        - Character & Conduct & Charity:
          - Of Jesus Christ Himself!
            - But - How Will This New Life In Christ Work Itself Out In Your Relationships?
      - And - Especially - In Your Closest Relationships:
        - Within Your Own Family?
          - **IE:** In Our Society - The Family Is Under Attack Now - More Than Ever! There Are Even Attempts To Change The Very Definitions Of Family & Husband & Wife!
        - And - This Is Why The Apostle Paul Goes On:
          - To Show The Great Change That Christ Can Make In Your Family:
            - When You Keep Him Number One In Your Life!
              - It Can Even Reveal To The World What God Designed The Family To Be In The First Place!
    - 4. And So - Paul Writes These Words:
      - To The Christian Members Of Our Families:
        - 3:18-21 - “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. / Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. / Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. / Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged!”
        - We See From These Verses:
          - That **Family Matters:**
            - To The Lord! And - Not Only Does It Matter To Him:
              - But **Family Works & Functions Best In** The Lord!
        - Imagine What Our Families Would Be Like:
          - And Our Church Would Be Like:
            - If Every Member Sought To Live Out:
              - Their Lives In Christ!
      - 5. So - This Morning:

- We Are Going To Look At The Four Roles & Responsibilities:
  - Within The Christian Family!
    - But - Even Though These Verses:
      - Are Addressed To Specific Members Of The Family - Don't Check Out If You Think Are Not Included!
- Because - There Are Principles:
  - Of Christian & Christ-Like Living Here:
    - That Apply To Us All!
      - For Some Of You:
        - One Day - You May Have Your Own Family!
      - For Others Of You:
        - There Are Other Families That Will Need Your Counsel & Advice!

\* So - The First Family Role That Paul Addresses Is:

**1. *The Role Of The Wife!***

- According To The Bible - Marriage Is & Always Has Been:
  - The Union Of A Biological Man & A Biological Woman - In A Committed Relationship For Life!
    - And So - The Role Of Wife Belongs To Women - And A Primary Responsibility Of The Wife Is:
      - To "Submit!" - As We See In:
        - 3:18 - "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord!"
          - Now - In Spite Of The Negative Connotations Of The Word "Submit" - We Find In The Bible That God Has:
  - A Special Plan For Submission!
    - To "Submit" Here Means That The Wife:
      - Is To Willingly Follow:
        - The Order & Arrangement That God Designed For There To Be:
          - In Marriage!
        - In Ephesians 5:23 - We Are Told That:
          - "The Husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church!"
      - So - As A Wife:
        - You Are To "Submit Yourself Unto Your Own Husband!"
          - This Does Not Mean That The Wife:
            - Is Inferior To Her Husband!
          - This Does Not Mean That The Wife:
            - Is Not As Intelligent As Her Husband! And:
          - This Does Not Mean That The Wife:
            - Does Not Offer Input To Her Husband!
      - It Means - That Within The Family:
        - The Wife Is To Ultimately:
          - Yield Her Own Will:
            - To The Will Of Her Husband:
              - If & When Those Two Wills Are In Conflict!
          - Of Course - This Does Not Apply To Matters:
            - That Are Contrary To The Will & The Word Of God!
              - But - A Submissive Christian Wife Will Willingly Take Her Husbands Desires & Delights & Decisions As Her Own!
        - This Has Always Been God's Plan For The Family!
          - But - We Also Find In The Bible:
      - A Special Purpose For Submission!
        - The Reason Paul Deals With Submission:
          - For The Wife - Is Because - Perhaps:
            - This Is The Hardest Way For Her:
              - To Reflect Christ In Her Family!
        - And That Is Why He Adds:
          - In 3:18 - "As It Is Fit In The Lord!"
            - He Wants To Encourage Wives:
              - That This Is The Way It Should Be In A Christian Family!
        - In 1 Peter 3:5-6 - Peter Adds:

- “For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: / Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement!”

- The Reason That:

- Submission Is Fitting:

- Is Because - It Reflects The Character:

- Of Jesus Christ Himself!

- Even Jesus:

- Lived His Life On Earth:

- In Willing Submission:

- To The Will Of His Father!

- Now - This Does Not Mean:

- That Their Wills Were In Constant Conflict!

- Not At All!

- But It Does Mean - That When:

- The Human Will Of Jesus:

- Struggled Against The Divine Will Of His Father:

- Jesus Said - Matthew 26:39 - “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt!”

- If You Are A Wife:

- Are You Following After:

- The Submission Of Jesus:

- In Your Relationship With Your Husband?

- And - If You Are A Husband:

- Are You Making It Easy:

- For Your Wife To Submit To Your Will And Authority?

- Or - If You Aren't In Either Situation:

- Are You Submitting Yourself:

- To The Will Of Those In Authority In Your Own Life? Especially The Lord's?

- Submission Is One Way To Apply:

- 3:17 - “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus!”

\* The Second Family Role That We Come To Is:

## 2. ***The Role Of Husband!***

- The Role Of Husband Belongs To Men:

- And A Primary Responsibility Of The Husband Is:

- To “Love!” - As We See In:

- 3:19 - “Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them!”

- Now - What Seems To Be Such An Obvious Thing:

- Has To Be Spelled Out By Paul:

- Because - Like Submission For the Wife - Love Must Be The Hardest Way For The Husband:

- To Reflect Christ In His Family!

- Husbands:

- Do You Take Your Wife For Granted?

- Do You Prefer Or Prioritize:

- The Needs Of Others Over The Needs Of Your Wife?

- Or - Are You Letting Your Heart Wander:

- To Other Women:

- Who Are Not Your Wife!

- You Need To “Love Your Wife!”

- And The Bible Reveals What This Love Is To Be Like!

- It Is To Be:

- A Loving Sensitivity:

- Toward Your Wife!

- You Need To Be Thoughtful:

- And Tender Toward Your Wife!

- You Need To Think About Her & Her Needs & Her Best!

- 1 Peter 3:7 - “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered!”
  - This Is What True Love Is!
  - It Is Also To Be:
- A Loving Satisfaction:
  - With Your Wife!
    - Proverbs 5:18-19 - “Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth! Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her . . . satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love!”
      - This Is What True Love Is!
      - It Is Also To Be:
- A Loving Service:
  - For Your Wife!
    - 1 John 3:18 - “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth!”
      - Husbands - You Need To:
        - Show Your Love:
          - To Your Wife! But You Also Need To:
        - Say You Love:
          - Your Wife! Often!
      - You Also Need To Be Willing To Serve Your Wife:
        - Even To The Point Of Sacrifice!
          - Following The Example Of Jesus - Ephesians 5:25 - “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it!”
            - This Is What True Love Is!
  - But Then - Paul Adds In 3:19:
    - “And Be Not Bitter Against Them!”
      - This Has Also Been Translated To “Treat Them Harshly” - But I Don’t Think That Captures:
        - What Is Going On With This Word!
          - It Means To Not Become Embittered Against Your Wife!
    - This Describes An Inward Reaction:
      - In A Husbands Heart - That Can Stop The Flow:
        - Of Love - Of Sensitive, Satisfied, Serving Love!
  - As In Any Relationship:
    - There Might Be Things That Your Wife May Say Or Do That Will Displease You!
      - And This Displeasure Can Turn Into Bitterness If You Are Not Careful!
        - And If You Are Not Following After The Conduct Of Christ - 3:13 - And “Forbearing One Another & Forgiving One Another!”
  - Bitterness Can & Often Will:
    - Turn Into Harsh Treatment:
      - But It Begins As A Poison In The Well Of Your Heart!
        - Beware Of Bitterness!
- If You Are A Husband:
  - Are You Following After:
    - The Love Of Jesus:
      - In Your Relationship With Your Wife?
  - And - If You Are A Wife:
    - Are You Making It Easy:
      - For Your Husband To Love You In The Way That He Should?
  - Or - If You Aren’t In Either Situation:
    - Are You Loving Others:
      - With The Love Of Christ?
  - Remember - Jesus Doesn’t Tell Us To Do Something:
    - That He Himself Has Not Done!
      - John 13:34 - “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another!”

\* The Third Family Role That We Come To is:

**3. *The Role Of Children!***

- And The Primary Responsibility Of The Christian Child Is:

- To Obey Their Parents!

- 3:20 - "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord!"

- This Too Is Probably One Of The More Challenging Things About Childhood!

- But It Still Is Part Of The Divine Order & Arrangement Of The Family!

- But - Once Again:

- Jesus Doesn't Command Something:

- That He Himself Did Not Do!

- In Luke 2:51 - Even As A Child - "And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them!"

- So - If You Are A Child & Are Still Under The Authority Of Your Parents:

- The Lord Will Enable & Help You:

- To "Obey Your Parents!"

- And We See From This Verse That It Is To Be:

- A Continual Obedience!

- "Obey Your Parents In All Things" - Paul Writes!

- Of Course - This Does Not Mean:

- That You Are Obligated To Obey:

- What Is Contrary To God's Own Word!

- But It Does Mean:

- That You Are To Obey:

- The Wishes Of Your Parents:

- From Your Heart!

- The Word "Obey" Means Primarily:

- To Hear & To Heed:

- What You Are Told!

- You Need To:

- Listen:

- To Your Parents!

- You Need To Stop What You Are Doing & Open Up Your Ears!

Also:

- You Need To:

- Learn:

- From Your Parents!

- You Need To Let Their Words Sink In! And Then:

- You Need To:

- Live:

- According To The Words And Instructions Of Your Parents!

- And When You Do So:

- It Will Also Be:

- A Consecrated Obedience!

- Paul Adds In 3:20 - "For This Is Well Pleasing Unto The Lord!"

- For A Christian Child - These Are:

- Encouraging Words!

- Because - When You Seek To Please:

- Your Parents - Through Obedience:

- You Are Pleasing God!

- Didn't Jesus Please His Heavenly Father:

- As He Obeyed His Will On Earth?

- When Jesus Was Baptized - Remember The Words He Heard From Heaven That Day -

"And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!" (Matthew 3:17)

- Obedience Is Still:

- "Well-Pleasing" To The Lord!

- For All Children!

- If You Are A Child:

- Are You Following After:
  - The Obedience Of Jesus:
    - In Your Relationship With Your Parents?
- And - If You Are A Parent:
  - Are You Making It Easy:
    - For Your Children To Listen To You & Obey You?
- Or - If You Aren't In Either Situation:
  - Are You Obeying:
    - The Words Of Those God Has Placed As Authorities In Your Life?
    - Listening To Them / Learning From Them?

\* But Then - We Come To A Fourth Family Role - And That Is:

#### 4. ***The Role Of Fathers!***

- Because Another Thing That Perhaps Fathers Struggle With The Most Is This:
  - 3:31 - "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged!"
    - Certainly - This Can Apply To All Parents:
      - But Fathers Especially Have Been Given The Responsibility To "Train Up A Child In The Way He Should Go!" (Proverbs 22:6)
      - But - We See Here:
- A Great Danger:
  - To Fathering A Child!
    - You Can Take Your Authority Over Your Children:
      - Too Far!
  - And - You Need To Be Cautious:
    - "Provoke Not Your Children To Anger!"
      - This Means - That You Should Not:
        - Irritate Or Exasperate Your Children To The Point Of Conflict With Unreasonable & Unbiblical Demands Or Expectations!
  - Now - This Does Not Mean:
    - That You Do Not Exercise Discipline:
      - But That You Do Not Do So:
        - So Rigidly & Harshly!
    - Instead - When You Need To Discipline:
      - You Do So In A Way That Is:
        - Controlled!
        - Compassionate!
        - Christ-Like!
  - In Jeremiah 31:20 - You Hear This Kind Of Heart In The Lord:
    - "Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the LORD!"
      - Otherwise - There Can Be:
- A Great Discouragement:
  - In The Heart Of Your Child!
    - 3:21 - "Lest They Be Discouraged!"
      - John Eadie - "The Young Spirit Is To Be Carefully And Tenderly Developed, And Not Crushed By Harsh And Ungenerous Treatment. The Twig Is To Be Brought With Caution, Not Broken In The Efforts Of A Rude And Hasty Zeal!"
- Even Though Children Have The Responsibility:
  - To Obey Their Parents Instruction:
    - And To Endure Chastening:
      - Yet - If You - As A Father - As A Parent - Do Not Do So With The Right Heart & Spirit Yourself:
        - It Can Lead Your Children To Have A Broken Spirit That Is Without That Youthful, Vibrant "Spark Of Life" That God Gave Them & Often Uses To Direct Their Lives!
- If You Are A Father Or A Parent:
  - Are You Following After:

- The Pattern Of:
  - God - Your Heavenly Father?
- Or - If You Aren't A Parent:
  - How Do You Treat:
    - The Children That God Has Placed Into Your Life?
      - In Your Family!
      - In Your Church!

**Conclusion:**

1. We Find In These Verses:
  - God's Plan For A Christian Family!
    - Wives Are To Submit!
    - Husbands Are To Love!
    - Children Are To Obey!
    - Fathers Are To Be Gracious!
      - All Of These Responsibilities:
        - Can Be Found In:
          - The Life Of Christ Himself!
2. And So - When You Struggle:
  - With Your Own Responsibility:
    - And Wonder - "Who Is Sufficient For These Things?"
      - Remember That:
        - Jesus Christ Is Sufficient!
          - He Has Fulfilled His Roles & His Responsibilities Perfectly!
  - So Now:
    - As You Put On:
      - His Character!
      - His Conduct!
      - His Charity!
    - He Will Help You:
      - And Enable You:
        - To Be The Kind Of:
          - Wife, Husband, Parent, Or Child He Has Called You To Be!
3. But - What If You've Already Failed:
  - In One Or More Of These Responsibilities?
    - Remember 1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness!"
      - You Need To Go To The Lord!
        - But Then - Perhaps You Need To Go To The One You've Offended:
          - And Confess To Them!
4. And Then - Keep Putting On:
  - The Character Of The Lord Jesus Christ:
    - In Your Life - And In Your Relationships:
      - Especially - With Your Family!
        - Because - Your Family Matters:
          - To The Lord!

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