

Family Life God's Way

Colossians 3:18-4:1

"As Tychicus continues reading, they then heard: 'Wives, submit to your husbands... Husbands, love your wives... Children obey your parents... Fathers do not provoke them'... I like to imagine those listening looking up with a questioning look on their faces. I am not (for the moment) alluding to the awkwardness we in our society and culture have with the words of 3:18... The more important thing is to sense the apparently astonishing shift of subject from the cosmic work of Christ, reconciling all things to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven-to the tiny domestic scene: wife, husband and children.

We need to appreciate that when Paul turns to say something about family life for those united to Christ, he is still talking about the consequences of the death and resurrection of Jesus. If that event of immense effect is intended to bring order and peace back to the chaos of all things (1:15-20), then we must understand that this same Christ and this same work of Christ brings order and peace to the family: your family and mine." John Woodhouse

- I. The marriages that exist in the body of Christ, are Jesus' covenant marriages that are to be lived under his headship. He sovereignly brings a man a woman together to represent his covenant relationship with his church, it is a covenant relationship that is to be honored by the husband and wife as they live their marriages well for him

Col. 3:18-21

Hosea 14:9 *Who is wise? He will realize these things. Who is discerning? He will understand them. The ways of the Lord are right, the righteous walk in them. But the rebellious stumble in them.*

- A. A God honoring covenant marriage is shown by a wife who is willing to let her husband be the leader in the home. When this is done, it not only honors the Lord, but it also shows him that she is willing to submit to His headship over her and her marriage.

Col. 3:18

Eph. 5:22-24, 33b

1 Peter 3:1-6

"The form of the verb (hypotassesthe, middle voice) shows that submission is to be voluntary. The wife's submission is never to be forced on her by a demanding husband; it is the deference that a loving wife, conscious that her home (just as any other institution) must have a head, gladly shows." (Vaughan)

"In no place does the Scripture teach an unqualified, without exception, submission=except to God and God alone. To violate this is to commit the sin of idolatry." Guzik

- B.** A God honoring covenant marriage is shown by a husband who is willing to self-sacrificially live in ways that protect and honor the wife God has given him. When a husband loves his wife like Christ loved the church, he will do everything in his power to treat his wife well as he leads in ways that will safeguard the sanctity of the marriage.

Col. 3:19

Eph. 5:25-31

1 Peter 3:7

1 Peter 3:7 *Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your(pl.) prayers. Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another.*

- C.** A God honoring covenant marriage is seen when a husband and wife raise their children in ways that show them what a good marriage looks like before the Lord. The fruit of being raised well is often seen in children who desire to please the Lord by honoring their father and mother.

Col. 3:20

Eph. 6:1-2, 4

Proverbs. 30:17

2 Ti. 3:1-2

- II.** A good marriage, as with all things that God has entrusted us with in life, comes about when we understand the importance of serving him with "sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord." When we put our eyes on him and serve him with all our hearts, we honor him, and he will bless us in all that we do.

Col. 3:22-4:1