

Colossians 3:18-21 Christian Families

Are you living out your obedience to God in your family life?

Paul discussed earlier in chapter 3 living a holy life - unlike the world. "Set your hearts on things above, not on earthly things" Christian households are also called on to live unlike worldly families; to live holy lives. Paul felt it necessary to remind the Colossian church about this. Regular families can function "well", but what separates a Christian family from a regular family? It is being centered on Christ.

There are four main characteristics a Christian family should have; each is part of a mutual relationship

1. Submission

- Submit: 1) to yield oneself to the authority or will of another
2) to permit oneself to be subjected to something
- The wife allows herself to be under a man
- Eph 5:22-24
- Submission of the wife is part of mutual submission, and in response to husband's love
- Wife submits to husband, in turn submitting to God
- Submitting to God- an example would be a husband being led by God and the wife following
- 1 Peter 3 (husbands who aren't serving the Lord seeing God through their wives)
- Wife is being obedient to God by submitting to husband

2. Love

- Other part of mutual relationship/submission
- Love as Christ loves the church
- Selfless love- when you love God it should come naturally
- Eph 5:25-33
- Husband is head/priest of household
- Must dedicate himself to the good of his wife
- Husband is obedient to God by showing his wife love like Christ

3. Obedience

- Submission from children
- Respect for parents
- Eph 6:1-3
- Obedience comes with a promise
- "it may go well with you" you will be in God's will, have a fulfilling life, be content
- Can't be obedient to God if you can't be obedient to your parents
- By being obedient to parents, they are in turn being obedient to God

4. Do not embitter

- Fathers called on to love children
- To raise them up in Godly love instead of harshness
- Comes with the promise that if there is no love, children will become discouraged
- Eph 6:4
- Fathers obey God by loving their children and not aggravating them or causing them to be disheartened

Start now with obedience.

Proverbs 23: 24 The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a **wise** son rejoices in him.