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Shepherd's Community Church

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Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:1-4, 8

“Growing in Your Relationship with Other Believers: *The Home*”

I. The Importance of the Home

A. The church is a family of families (1 Timothy 5:1-3).

B. Church leaders must have godly families or they cannot lead the church family (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1)

II. The Instruction for the Home (Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:3-4)

A. Wives – Colossians 3:18

- **The wives** = those in the congregation that are married
 - **be subject** = to rank under; to subdue oneself; to subject yourself in obedience
 - Military term = to rank oneself under a superior officer
 - To willingly putting oneself under someone or something (cf. Luke 2:51; 10:17, 20; Rom. 8:7; 13:1, 5; 1 Cor. 15:27, 28; Eph. 1:22).
 - It means **YOU DO IT WHEN YOU DON'T AGREE** – otherwise it is not submission!
 - Cf. 1 Cor. 11:3
 - imperative mood = command
 - present tense = keep it up continuously
 - middle voice = do it voluntarily; do it to yourself
- To your husbands = one-man woman!
 - 1 Cor. 14:35; Eph. 5:22, 24; Titus 2:5; 1 Peter 3:1-6
- **1 Peter 3:1-7 = True Submission**
 - **“Gentle”** = opposite of striving, controlling or manipulating. To overlook wrongs & not expect perfection. Be like Jesus (Mt. 11:29).
 - **“Quiet”** = 1 Tim. 2:11-12. Learn to ask your husband, “What do you think the Lord wants us to do?” Then quietly wait for him to lead.
 - **“Respectful”** (1 Pet. 3:6) = “Lord.” Show respect to your husbands. Eph. 5:33 = summary of the #1 main attribute that a wife must demonstrate to her husband.

- A woman who SUBMITS without RESPECT is not truly submissive!
- as is fitting in the Lord =

B. Husbands – Colossians 3:19

- **The husbands** = those men who are married.
 - Provide for your family (1 Tim. 5:8)
 - Manage your household (1 Tim. 3:5)
 - Be the spiritual initiator in the home (Eph. 5:26)
- **Love your wives (cf. Eph. 5:25)**
 - LOVE = not just physically; not just in a friendship; but sacrificial service for her benefit
 - Love of intelligent purpose, the love that spends and is spent for its object, the love that self-sacrificially gives and gives
- Literally = “**Keep on loving your wives**”
 - Love =
 - I do what is BEST for her (Eph. 5:25).
 - I do what she NEEDS MOST.
 - I SERVE her daily (come home to serve).
 - I SACRIFICE MY DESIRES & TIME for her (give up my wants, time, freedom, etc.).
 - I share my life with her, live considerately, etc.
 - I CHERISH her with my attention (1 Peter 3:7).
- **your wives**
- **and do not be embittered against them**
 - “Stop being bitter” or “Do not have the habit of being bitter”
 - Embittered = to irritate; to exasperate; to be cross
 - This is an IMPATIENCE often caused by NAGGING
 - Don’t have an attitude of resentment that leads to bitterness
 - Don’t let a harshness of temper or a cross attitude dominate our marriages
 - Even if she is NOT SUBMISSIVE = don’t be bitter
- How do I know if I’m bitter?
 - Keep lists (You did it again!)
 - Demeaning (You can’t even boil water!)
 - Give orders (Submit! I’m the leader!)

C. Children – Colossians 3:20; 1 Timothy 5:3-4

- **Children** = general word for offspring (male or female)
- **Be obedient to your parents**
 - be obedient = “to listen; to obey”
 - “Keep on continuously obeying”
 - To your parents = both mom & dad
 - Hear your parents’ command and do it. Train your ear to hear their voice above all the other noise!

- Disobedience to parents is designated in the Old Testament as rebellion against God and was severely punished (Ex. 21:17; Lev. 20:9).
- Jesus set an example for children by obeying Joseph and His mother Mary (Luke 2:51).
- **In all things**
 - Every rule a parent makes (what you watch, wear, eat, friends, spouse...)
 - The only limit on a child's obedience is when parents demand something contrary to God's Word (Acts 5:29). For example, some children will act contrary to their parents' wishes even in coming to Christ (cf. Luke 12:51–53; 14:26).
- **For this is well-pleasing to the Lord = Motive**
 - Cf. Eph. 6:1; Col. 1:10; Phil. 4:18; Heb. 13:21

D. Parents – Colossians 3:21

- **Fathers =**
 - And mothers? (cf. Prov. 1:8; 6:20; 10:1; 23:25)
- **do not exasperate**
 - Exasperate = to excite; to provoke; to irritate; to nag as a habit
- **your children =**
 - Ps 103:13; Pr 3:12; 4:1-4; Eph 6:4; 1Th 2:11; Heb 12:5-11
- Avoid the negative pitfalls of provoking or exasperating:
 1. Seeking to be understood but never seeking to understand
 2. Commanding w/o explaining (older kids)
 3. Criticizing w/o esteeming
 4. Disciplining w/o comforting
 5. Hearing w/o listening
 6. Wrong w/o apologizing
 7. Teach w/o being an example
 8. Disciple w/o dedication
 9. Leading w/o loving
 10. Overprotection (nothing but rules)
 11. Favoritism (compare to other kids)
 12. Depreciation (they eat in the kitchen while you eat with guests in the dining room)
 13. Discouragement (never reward them for anything)
 14. Don't provide for their needs
 15. Lack of standards (no standards, rules, boundaries) [Recent studies have shown that children with few or no boundaries do much worse in life than those that came from strict homes]
 16. Criticism
 17. Neglect (indifferent)
 18. Over-discipline (yelling all the time)
 19. Lack of demonstrated affection (no physical touch; not saying "I love you")
- **that they may not lose heart =** to be without courage or spirit; to lose heart; to become spiritless; i.e., "to go about their task in a listless, moody, sullen frame of mind" (Lightfoot)
 - Praise for well-doing rather than constant criticism will, along with loving discipline (cf. Heb. 12:7), help rear children in "the training and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

- Positive things to do:
 1. Set only realistic standards for them (Ps. 103:14). Be careful of competition with other kids & wanting our kids to go beyond what they are able.
 2. Give verbal praise for doing well (don't just point out the one thing out of 10 that they did wrong).
 3. Speak only once clearly – refuse to nag.
 4. Show forth natural affection (touch, hug, embrace, say “I love you”) – Luke 15 (Father of Prodigal)

E. Children of Older Parents – 1 Timothy 5:3-4, 8

- **Honor widows** = women who have lost the support of their husbands
 - God cares about widows! (cf. Ps. 68:5; 146:9; Mark 12:41–44; Luke 7:11–17; Ex. 22:22–24; Deut. 27:19; Is. 1:17)
 - Honor = respect; care for; treat graciously
- **Children or grandchildren**
- **Practice piety** = to worship; to act piously or reverently
- **Make some return**
- **Acceptable in the sight of God**
 - Cf. James 1:27
- **Provide for his own...household**
- **Worse than an unbeliever**

CONCLUSION:

Questions for Application:

Wives

1. Are you joyfully accepting God's design for you in marriage? How does the intimacy of your relationship with Christ impact the answer to that question?
2. Are you obeying God by submitting to your husband continuously? How does this demonstrate itself when you disagree with him on a significant decision?
3. Are you initiating your own submission to your husband (middle voice) or are you causing a struggle?
4. Is your submission characterized by being gentle, quiet, and respectful? How will the application of Col. 3:1-17 help in this process?
5. Are you committed to being a one-man woman? Are your thoughts & affections directed to him alone and not to any other man either real or imagined? Is it obvious to others that apart from Jesus Christ you have no greater love for anyone than your husband (including your children)?
6. How is submission to your husband a beautiful (fitting) representation to the world of our Lord Jesus Christ? How does lack of submission negatively impact our testimony to the world?

Husbands

1. What kind of leader are you in the home? (Physically, intellectually, emotionally, spiritually...) Do you make it easy for your wife to submit herself to you? Would you follow you?
2. What does the word "love" mean to you? What did Paul mean when he told us to love our wives "the way" Christ loved the church? (Eph. 5) What are some practical ways you can demonstrate that kind of love this week?
3. Do you continuously love your wife in a sacrificial way? Has your love for your wife grown hotter or colder since you got married? How would she answer that question? (Ask her.)
4. Does your wife know with absolute certainty that you would willingly make ANY sacrifice on her behalf? (Give up my career, hobbies, or even my life if necessary)
5. Do you ever feel bitterness in your heart toward your wife? How do you know when it is happening? How might the Lord use you to assist your wife in overcoming things that cause irritations in your life?
6. Do you ever experience anger toward your wife? Meditate upon Prov. 15:1-2; Eph. 4:26-32; James 1:19-20. How does God want you to deal with that anger? (i.e., tone of voice; commitment to resolve the conflict quickly & in a loving manner; listening more carefully before speaking...)
7. In what ways is your relationship with your wife vital to having a good relationship with your children?
8. What will you do as the spiritual head of your household to make this coming year the best you have ever had in your marriage?

Children:

1. Are you obeying your parents in all things? Even when they aren't looking? Why or why not?

2. Do you obey mom and dad equally? Do you honor them equally? Why or why not?
3. Why is obeying your parents “well-pleasing to the Lord?” What will the Lord do for children that honor and obey their parents? (see Eph. 6:1-3)
4. If your future children honor and obey you the way you honor and obey your parents will you be pleased?
5. What are some current areas where you could go “above and beyond the call of duty” in obeying your parents? (i.e., they ask you to take out the trash and you do that PLUS do a related chore...)

Parents:

1. What are some ways that we exasperate our children?
2. Do you treat your children like they belong to God and you are accountable for the way you treat them?
3. What might it look like when a child loses heart? What could we do about it when we are aware of it?
4. How could we “encourage” our children instead of exasperate them?

Children of Older Parents:

1. What plans are you making NOW to provide for your elderly parents when they have need?
2. What needs could you provide for beyond the financial?
3. How might your commitment to provide for your elderly parents enhance your testimony to a lost world?
4. What will it cost you to provide for your parents that way?

Church:

1. What negative impact will ungodly families within the church have on the testimony of the church?
2. What positive impact will godly families have on the testimony of the church?
3. What is our responsibility toward “Christian” families that are not living according to these principles? How can we help them?
4. How might we better reach out to those people in our church that don’t have a godly family? Is there someone you could “adopt” into your family so they can see a godly example?