

FELLING GIANTS WITH FIVE SMOOTH STONES

Smooth Stone Number One: A Biblically Defined and Empowered Family

(Philippians 2:5-9; Hebrews 5:8; Romans 5:1-5)

So what are the characteristics we see in Christ and His Cross that brings the reality of the Gospel to every area of our lives, especially the family! What we first see profoundly is His ...

❖ **Selfless ACT**

- Submission

Marriages succeed where mutual submission exists! This is a great and foundational quality for life and marriage.

We see this submission ...

- In the Master

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:5-9)

*“Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.”
(Hebrews 5:8)*

Submission doesn't come easy! It is learned through painful experiences.

Romans tells us that:

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." (Romans 5:1-5)

Sufferings are a form of discipline. Jesus ...

" ... emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:5-9)

So, what we see in Christ and in the gospel is to be applied ...

- ▶ In the Marriage

1 Peter 3 says,

"Husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered." (1 Pet. 3:1-7)

Man and woman rightly related reveal the image of God. But we also see:

- Service

Without a doubt, Jesus was the ultimate servant. In Mark 10:45, Jesus even tells everyone:

"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve."

Secondly, we see in the gospel, Christ's ...

❖ Sanctifying ATTITUDE

- Humility

Through this humility, He was able to provide ...

- Hope

Our marriages and our parenting requires that we stay the course and work through every issue inspiring hope in each other and our children! That is what we see in the gospel and in Jesus that brought about ...

❖ Saving ACTIONS

- Forbearance

In Jesus, there was forbearance! Salvation is impossible without this quality. Forbearance means to be patient self-controlled; restrained and tolerant.

Forbearance seen in the cross leads us to ...

- Forgiveness

One of the most startling things said in Scripture is found in Luke 23:34, when Jesus is on the cross and proclaims:

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

In the home, we so often fail to really forgive.