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Building a Godly Marriage Colossians 3:18-19

I. Introduction: Marriage is God's Idea

1. Married and have a good OR even great marriage, but hunger to continue to see growth in your marriage?

Married, but frustrated, discouraged, bitter, or just not sure how to get your marriage on the same page as God's will for your marriage?

Not married? I bet you know someone that is...even if you are not looking for it.

2. No matter your life circumstances AND no matter whether God's perfect will is for you to be single or married, the word of God offers invaluable instruction regarding His holy plan for marriage.

3. Some things we can say about marriage with Biblical assurance:

A. Marriage is God's idea;

B. Marriage is a gift from God;

C. Biblical marriage is supernatural unity between a man and a woman in meaning and purpose as they live out the most important horizontal relationship;

D. Marriage is the foundation for family and together, marriage and family are the building blocks of society;

E. Marriage is the picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride, the church;

F. A great marriage brings God honor and glory;

G. A great marriage is the greatest gift you can give your kids; and

H. While not complicated, a great Biblical marriage can be "hard" for it requires both husband and wife to die to his/herself in favor of obediently following God's word.

4. Keeping in mind all of the things noted, it's on this last point (hard, not complicated) that I want to camp out for just a moment.
 - A. First, given the ever-increasing number of publications, conferences, retreats, and classes, there is no lack of counsel regarding the importance of as well as on improving marriages. Yet, the high number of divorces, the derogatory persuasive anti-marriage sentiment and humor, the sheer number of single parent families, and the cultural/spiritual war against marriage all indicate that either (1) God's design for marriage is wrong or (2) the failure is on us, mankind.
 - B. Before we go further, I recognize that many of you have experienced broken marriages and even been through divorce, maybe more than once. For these I am genuinely sorrowful! Yet, His ideal for marriage is both good and unchanged. As such we can receive His healing, trust Him with wherever we are at, and be part of charting a victorious course for ourselves and for others. AND...
 - C. Finally, the Bible and real life observations indicate the main point of failure in marriages is pride; otherwise said as a failure to take up our cross. Because both husband and wife are sinners, it requires dying to one-self and, instead to embrace Christ's commands in prioritizing His will over our own.

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II. Colossian 3:18-19: Overview

1. As we consider these verses, it's important to note that because Paul's target audience being believers, he brings some essential assumptions to the table in our passage today, including:
 - A. All hearing his instruction would understand and value His teaching from their particular vantage point as children of God;
 - B. The power and leading of the Holy Spirit is at work in both husband and wife;
 - C. Both husband and wife are purposing to obey God and allow Him to sanctify them; and

D. Both husband and wife have Christlike motivations.

Because of these assumptions, Paul's instructions are brief and to the point.

2. Before digging deeper into our two verses today, [as well as drawing from a parallel marriage passage in Ephesians 5](#), I think it helpful to see the sectional outlines offered in the NKJ bible translation of both Colossians and Ephesians leading up to Paul's instruction on marriage.

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<u>Colossians</u>	<u>Ephesians</u>
Sacrificial Service for Christ (Col 1:24-29)	Walk in Unity (Eph 4:1-6)
Not Philosophy But Christ (Col 2:1-10)	Spiritual Gifts (Eph 4:7-16)
Not Legalism But Christ (Col 2:11-23)	The New Man (Eph 4:17-24)
Not Carnality But Christ (Col 3:1-11)	Do Not Grieve the Spirit (Eph 4:25-32)
Character of the New Man (Col 3:12-17)	Walk in Love (Eph 5:1-7)
	Walk in Light (Eph 5:8-14)
	Walk in Wisdom (Eph 5:15-21)

These outlines emphasize Paul's clear assumptions that Christian husbands and wives are to be purposefully maturing in their walk as Godly men and women respectively.

I note this because, again, most often marriage challenges are birthed in the pride of one or both husband and wife. [While a marriage may reveal AND be harmed by words, thoughts, and deeds born in pride, the marriage can never "disciple" the person to a more holy place.](#) This is a work of the Spirit most often including His anointing and leading of other men and women to take on discipleship roles with the husband & wife having the troubled marriage.

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III. Colossians 3:18: God's Command for Her

1. **Submit.** Whoa. Have you seen my husband? [\[SUBMIT\]](#) Do you know the mistakes he has made? [\[SUBMIT\]](#) Do you know that I know more Scripture? [\[SUBMIT\]](#) God put us together so I could

help Him and helping doesn't equal submissions. [SUBMIT] He is NOT walking with the Lord [SUBMIT]. Your reasoning does not matter to God, but your obedience does! [SUBMIT]. // Now, IF you are in an abusive relationship, first get to safety and then let's get you the needed counsel to determine next steps.

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2. The word for submit here is *hypotassō*. It carries with it the idea of obeying someone of higher rank, such as we see in the military – **importantly, NOT because they are better than you**. Similarly, because one obeys a police officer, coach, boss, teacher, doctor, or anyone else does NOT suggest the one of higher rank in these settings has more value. **Instead, it is matter of order, function, and responsibility.**

Scripture is clear this does NOT mean the wife is:

- A. Not as smart;
- B. Not as capable;
- C. Not as spiritual; and, again
- D. Not as valuable as her husband...

3. Indeed, **Genesis 1:27** says both men and women are made in the image of God. **Furthermore, Romans 8:14-17 says that as adopted children of Christ, we are joint heirs with Him**. While, **1 Corinthians 11:3** says “ But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. What's more, **Ephesians 5:23-24** says:

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For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*
- Eph 5:23–24

- A. Even in the Godhead, the Father, Son, and Spirit are equally God and yet we see they present themselves in submission with a clear order and structure.
- B. Finally, all of these verses present a clear picture affirming the dignity, position, and value of women generally and wives

specifically in God's plan...including achieving God's purposes in marriage for His glory.

4. Four more things of note before we move on into v19:

A. First, we note the wife is to submit "as is fitting in the Lord".

These words introduced a radical change to the prevalent marriage dynamic in Paul's day. In that day, there would have been a "period" in v18 after husbands. But in being for women, Jesus here makes clear that the wife is to submit to her husband in obedience to the Lord.

B. Second, while man has often missed the mark established by Jesus for him as a husband, this does NOT mean a wife has a free pass to not submit whenever she believes her husband has failed.

C. Third, neither **Colossians 3:18** nor **Ephesians 5:22** suggest in any fashion that the husband is to insist, bribe, or otherwise compel his wife to submit. Husbands, stay in your lane, this is Christ's command for her; a command she will answer for.

D. Lastly, our Ephesians passage, particularly **Eph 5:17-18** indicates that the only way both the husband and wife can do what they are charged to do in **Colossians 3:18-19** (wives submit, husbands love and do not be bitter) is to know the will of God (meaning know His word) and be filled with His Spirit.

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IV. Colossians 3:19: God's Commands For Him

1. One commentator noted that while God's instructions for the wife is addressed to her will, the husband's instructions are addressed to his heart.¹
2. We will cover the second husband command first. It is a great warning that a husband is NOT to be bitter toward his wife. For

¹ John Phillips, *Exploring Colossians & Philemon: An Expository Commentary*, The John Phillips Commentary Series (Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp., 2009), Col 3:19.

God to have this command in the canon of Scripture speaks both of His righteous expectation **AND that this is an area most (and likely all) husbands may struggle**; to NOT become exasperated, irritated, provoked, or resentful of their wives.

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3. A husband is instead, as we read in the command, to love their wives. **Turn with me to Ephesians 5:25-33**. Due to time constraints, while not reading all of the verses, we will look at some important points.

A. First up, we see the high bar for husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the church in **Eph 5:24-25**. **This is a sacrificial, unconditional, and holy love**. It speaks of dying for her and of placing her needs consistently and faithfully in front of your own. **Paul goes on to say how we do this, including:**

- i. In **Eph 5:26-27** husbands have the charge of sanctifying and cleansing their wives via the washing of the word...**now don't miss this, WITH THE MOTIVATION that she may come before Christ as holy and unblemished.**
- ii. We read in **Eph 5:29** that a husband's love includes nourishing or doing his part in bringing her to maturity **AND to cherish or offer a warm, practical caring for his wife's needs.**

B. Some of the numerous other Biblical truths we can look to for understanding how a husband is to love his wife include:

- i. Purpose to lead her in worship, prayer, service, obedience, and righteousness.
- ii. **Actively listen to her, responding when and how God would have you do so;**
- iii. Engage her in all decisions as a valued and trusted partner;
- iv. **Continuously work with her in seeking God's will for your marriage;**
- v. Serve her (Mt 20:25-28)

- vi. Be content with her (Ex 20:17);
- vii. Trust her (Prov 31:11);
- viii. Appreciate her (Prov 31:28);
- ix. Be considerate of her (1 Pet 3:7);
- x. Forgive her (Col 3:12-13);
- xi. Pray and ask God to give you a nurturing and loving heart (1 Cor 13:4-7);
- xii. Be filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18);
- xiii. Enjoy your time with her (Ecc 9:9);
- xiv. Rejoice in her as a gift from God (Prov 18:22); and
- xv. Be a Godly man (Col 3:12-17; Eph 4:17-24), and in Titus 1:5-9, we read that a mature Godly man is:

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- blameless, a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, hospitable, loves what is good, soberminded, just, holy, self-controlled, and holding fast to faith in the word.

As husbands you have a high, hard, and holy calling in Biblical headship. An impossible calling outside of Christ and a wonderful gift when you have died to yourself in allowing Jesus to be Lord of your life.

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V. Closing: Marriage is Hard, Not Complicated

1. Wives it is right for you to submit your will to your husband in your worship of Jesus. **Ephesians 5:33** offers perhaps the most powerful way that you can submit to your husband; “and let the wife see that she respects her husband”. You can do this by yielding to and encouraging him to walk in Biblical headship.

Wives, I also exhort you to NOT join the husband-bashing club. If you need Biblical counsel, seek it, but complaining about and undermining your husband and his decisions does NOT honor God, is disrespectful to your husband, and gives more room for the enemy to try to destroy your marriage. What’s more wives, if you husband makes a bad decision, your attitude can build him up

or tear him down. Do you diminish him, have an “I told you so” attitude, or, I pray, encourage him?

2. Husbands, like you, your wife is a moral free agent, able to reject or accept Jesus’ commands. If she does not submit to you, what is a proper response? Calling lightning from heaven, forcing her, giving her extra duties and chores? I pray NOT. She is sinning against God. So instead of letting your flesh come through, I encourage you to be Christ’s ambassador in forgiving her and creating a safe environment that she may be more likely to respond to your leadership as she builds trust in you following Christ.
3. Future wife, choose your husband wisely. Is He seeking and submitting to the Lord in prayer, worship, service, and going deeper in God’s word? Do you see evidence of his capacity to lead you in Biblical headship in a manner honoring to God? Do you see evidence of a sacrificial, unconditional, holy love in him?

Future husband choose your wife wisely. Is she maturing in the character of Christ? Does she show evidence of willingness to submit as an act of worship unto Jesus? Does she grasp and walk in the Biblical respect God calls her to?

4. Husbands it is right for you to love your wife and to NOT be bitter toward her.
 - A. Husband talk to AND listen to your wife; seek her Godly wisdom and insights. Build a shared future together with Jesus leading of both of you. Yes, you are to walk in Biblical headship, but this means you have the servant-leaders responsibility to ensure your home and your relationship is one where her (and your) faith and following of Jesus may flourish.
 - B. Husbands examine yourself and your headship. Does your wife enjoy spending time with you? Does she feel loved and encouraged by you? Does she feel physically and emotionally safe around you? Does she believe you are growing in your

walk with Christ and creating a safe environment for her to do the same?

5. If your marriage does not meet God's ideal, I pray today's sermon does not leave you discouraged. Rather, be encouraged that God is for you and your marriage!

A. Know that, while hard, victory in marriage is not complicated.

B. Know if you will surrender your pride, God will show you the way to victory.

[Prayer]

Building a Godly Marriage Colossians 3:18-19

I. Introduction: Marriage is God's Idea

- 8 things we can say about marriage with Biblical assurance.
- The main point of failure in marriages is pride

II. Colossian 3:18-19: Overview

- The foundation of a Biblical marriage is Christ with both husband and wife purposing to submit to His authority.
- Discipleship and Biblical counseling are about knowing and applying Truth in our lives.

Additional Scripture References: Col 1:24-3:17; Eph 4:1-5:21

III. Colossians 3:18: God's Command for Her

- The word for submit here is hypotassō. It carries with it the idea of obeying someone of higher rank, such as we see in the military – importantly, NOT because one is better than the other.
- Men & women have equal value...one is NOT better than the other.
- Wives, you will answer to God for answering His commands, including to submit.

Additional Scripture References: Ge 1:27; Ro 8:14-17; 1 Co 11:3; Eph 5:17-24

IV. Colossians 3:19: God's Commands for Him

- Husbands, do not be bitter toward your wife. Instead love her as Christ loves His church.
- 15 Biblical ways a husband loves His wife.

Additional Scripture References: Eph 5:25-33, Titus 1:5-9

V. Closing: Marriage is Hard, Not Complicated

- The "Appearing of Grace" comes with an inescapable responsibility for every one of us to respond.

Additional Scripture References: Eph 5:33

5-Day Devotional Building a Godly Marriage Colossians 3:18-19

Day 1: The Foundation of Biblical Marriage

Reading: Ge 2:18-25

Devotional: Marriage was God's idea from the beginning. When God declared it was not good for man to be alone, He established the most important horizontal relationship we can experience. Notice that Eve was created as a helper suitable for Adam—not inferior, but complementary. The two became one flesh, establishing a supernatural unity that reflects God's design. Before sin entered the world, marriage existed in perfect harmony. This reminds us that a godly marriage is possible when we return to God's original blueprint.

Today, reflect on whether you view marriage as God's gift or merely a human contract. Are you building your marriage on the solid foundation of Scripture, or on cultural expectations? Whether married or single, honor God's design for this sacred covenant.

Day 2: Dying to Self in Marriage

Reading: Lk 9:23-25; Gal 2:20

Devotional: Jesus makes clear that following Him requires taking up our cross daily. This truth applies profoundly to marriage. The greatest challenge in building a godly marriage is not complicated—it is pride. Both husband and wife must die to selfish desires and submit to Christ's will. Paul writes that he has been crucified with Christ, and Christ now lives in him. When we bring this crucified life into marriage, transformation happens. Instead of demanding our way, we ask what honors God. Instead of keeping score, we extend grace. The power for this supernatural love comes only through the Holy Spirit working in surrendered hearts.

Consider today: What selfish desires are you clinging to that prevent your marriage from flourishing? What would it look like to truly die to yourself for your spouse's good and God's glory?

Day 3: The Wife's Calling to Submit

Reading: Col 3:18; 1 Pe 3:1-6

Devotional: Submission is not a popular word, yet it remains God's clear instruction for wives. This command is not about inferiority but about order, function, and worship. When a wife submits to her husband, she is ultimately submitting to Christ. Peter highlights Sarah's example, who obeyed Abraham and called him lord, demonstrating respectful trust. Notice that submission does not depend on a husband's perfection—Peter specifically addresses wives of disobedient husbands, showing that godly conduct can win them over without words. This is radical faith. Submission is an act of worship that says, "Lord, I trust You more than my own understanding."

For wives: Are you submitting to your husband as unto the Lord, or only when he meets your expectations? For all believers: Where is God calling you to trust His order rather than insist on your own way?

Day 4: The Husband's Calling to Love Sacrificially

Reading: Eph 5:25-33

Devotional: Husbands receive the highest calling in marriage: to love their wives as Christ loved the church. Christ gave Himself up, died for His bride, and continuously sanctifies her. This is not passive affection but active, sacrificial, sanctifying love. The husband's role includes washing his wife with the Word, nourishing her spiritual growth, and cherishing her daily needs. He is to love her as his own body, for they are one flesh. This mirrors Christ's relationship with the church—intimate, protective, and purposeful. Notice there is no command for husbands to make their wives submit; instead, they are to create an environment where submission becomes natural through Christlike love.

Husbands: Are you leading your wife closer to Jesus? Does she feel loved, safe, and cherished? Are you laying down your life daily for her sanctification and joy?

Day 5: Walking in the Spirit Together

Reading: Eph 5:15-21; Gal 5:16-25

Devotional: The secret to fulfilling God's commands in marriage is being filled with the Spirit. Apart from His power, we cannot love sacrificially or submit worshipfully. Paul connects Spirit-filled living with wisdom, thanksgiving, and mutual submission in reverence to Christ. When both husband and wife walk in the Spirit, they produce love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—the very qualities that make marriage thrive. Marriage is hard, not because it is complicated, but because it requires daily surrender to the Spirit rather than the flesh. The flesh demands its own way; the Spirit empowers us to serve one another.

Reflect today: Are you daily being filled with the Spirit through worship, prayer, and God's Word? Is your marriage characterized by the fruit of the Spirit or the works of the flesh? Commit today to walk in step with the Spirit.

Small Group Study Guide

Building a Godly Marriage

Colossians 3:18-19

Opening Prayer: Lord, open our hearts and minds to His design for marriage, to bring healing where needed, and to strengthen marriages represented in our group.

Opening Question: What is one marriage (parents, grandparents, friends, mentors) that has positively influenced your view of what a healthy marriage looks like? What made it stand out?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **Marriage is God's design** - a supernatural unity between a man and woman that reflects Christ's relationship with the church
2. **Pride is often the main point of failure in marriages** - both spouses must die to self and prioritize God's will
3. **Wives are called to submit** to their husbands as an act of worship to Christ (Colossians 3:18)
4. **Husbands are called to love sacrificially** and not be bitter toward their wives (Colossians 3:19)
5. **Marriage is hard, but not complicated** - victory comes through surrendering pride and following God's clear instructions

Discussion Questions: Did the Holy Spirit prompt any questions with you? Start with those.

I. Foundation of Biblical Marriage

1. The sermon listed several truths about marriage, including that it is God's idea, a gift, and the foundation of society. Which of these truths resonates most with you and why?
2. The pastor stated that "the main point of failure is pride" in marriages. How have you seen pride (in yourself or others) damage a marriage relationship?
3. Read Colossians 3:12-17 and Ephesians 4:17-24. Why did Paul include these passages before his instructions on marriage? How does personal spiritual maturity affect marriage health?

II. God's Design for Wives

1. The concept of submission is often misunderstood or rejected in our culture. How does understanding submission as "order, function, and responsibility" rather than value or worth change the conversation?
2. The sermon emphasized that wives submit "as is fitting in the Lord" - meaning this is obedience to Christ, not just to an imperfect husband. How does this perspective empower rather than diminish a wife?
3. Ephesians 5:33 says wives should respect their husbands. What are practical ways a wife can show respect, especially when she disagrees with a decision?
4. **For single women in the group:** What qualities should you look for in a future husband that would make biblical submission an act of worship rather than a burden?

III. God's Design for Husbands

1. Husbands are called to love their wives "as Christ loved the church" (Ephesians 5:25). What does this sacrificial, unconditional love look like in everyday marriage?
2. The sermon listed many ways husbands should love their wives: leading in worship, listening actively, serving, being considerate, forgiving, etc. Which of these do you think is most often neglected, and why?
3. The warning against bitterness is significant. What are some common sources of bitterness husbands might struggle with, and how can they combat this?
4. Read Titus 1:5-9. This passage describes a mature, godly man. How does a husband's personal character directly impact his ability to lead his wife biblically?
5. **For single men in the group:** How are you preparing now to be the kind of husband described in this sermon?

IV. Personal Reflection Questions

1. Whether married or single, how can you support and encourage the marriages around you rather than participating in "husband-bashing" or "wife-bashing" culture?

2. The sermon emphasized that both spouses need to be filled with the Spirit and know God's Word. What practices can couples implement to grow spiritually together?
3. For those who have experienced divorce or broken marriages, how can this teaching bring hope rather than condemnation? How does God's grace meet us where we are?

V. **Practical Applications**

1. For Married Couples:

A. This Week:

- Husbands: Choose one way from the sermon list to actively love your wife this week (listen, serve, appreciate, enjoy time together, etc.). Be specific and intentional.
- Wives: Identify one area where you can show greater respect or encouragement to your husband, especially in his leadership.
- Both: Set aside 30 minutes this week to pray together about your marriage and ask God to reveal any pride or areas needing growth.

B. This Month:

- Schedule a "marriage check-up" conversation. Ask each other:
- Do you feel loved and respected?
- Are we growing spiritually together?
- What is one thing I could do better as your spouse?
- Read Ephesians 5:22-33 together and discuss what it means for your specific marriage.

C. Ongoing:

- Commit to never speaking negatively about your spouse to others. If you need counsel, seek biblical guidance from mature believers.
- Establish a rhythm of reading Scripture and praying together regularly.

2. For Singles:

A. This Week:

- Reflect on the qualities described for godly husbands and wives. How are you developing these characteristics now?
- Identify one married couple you respect and ask if you can learn from them (have them over for dinner, ask questions, observe).

B. This Month:

- Study the passages mentioned in the sermon (Colossians 3:12-19, Ephesians 4:17-5:33, 1 Peter 3:7, Titus 1:5-9) to deepen your understanding of God's design for marriage.
- Pray for your future spouse (if marriage is God's will for you) and for your own spiritual growth.

3. For the Entire Group:

- Commit to praying for each other's marriages throughout the week
- Share resources that have strengthened your marriage or understanding of biblical marriage
- Consider reading a book together on biblical marriage

VI. **Closing Reflection and Prayer Focus**

1. Question: What is one specific action step you are committing to take this week based on what we discussed today?
2. Allow each person to share briefly, then close in prayer, specifically praying for:
 - Marriages represented in the group
 - Healing for those who have experienced broken marriages
 - Wisdom for singles seeking God's will
 - Humility to surrender pride and follow God's design

Discussion Questions
Building a Godly Marriage
Colossians 3:18-19

1. How does the concept of submission in marriage challenge cultural norms today, and in what ways can it be understood as an act of worship rather than inequality?
2. What does it mean for a husband to love his wife as Christ loved the church, and what practical steps can husbands take to demonstrate this sacrificial love daily?
3. Why do you think Paul addresses pride as the main point of failure in marriages, and how can both spouses actively combat pride in their relationship?
4. How does the parallel between the Trinity's order and structure inform our understanding of equality and submission within marriage?
5. In what ways can a wife respect and encourage her husband to walk in Biblical headship without compromising her own spiritual growth and discernment?
6. What role does being filled with the Holy Spirit play in enabling both husband and wife to fulfill their respective Biblical roles in marriage?
7. How can husbands create a safe environment where their wives feel physically, emotionally, and spiritually secure enough to flourish in their faith?
8. What are the dangers of husband-bashing or complaining about one's spouse, and how does this behavior undermine God's design for marriage?
9. How should a believing spouse respond when their partner fails to follow God's commands for marriage, and what does Biblical forgiveness look like in this context?
10. What criteria should unmarried believers use when choosing a future spouse to ensure their marriage will honor God and reflect Christ's relationship with the church?

Dinner Conversation Starters
Building a Godly Marriage
Colossians 3:18-19

1. **Marriage as a Gift from God:** The sermon mentioned that marriage is a gift from God and serves as a picture of the relationship between Christ and the church. How can we, whether married or single, reflect God's love and unity in our relationships with others?
2. **Role of Submission and Leadership:** In the sermon, it was discussed how wives are encouraged to submit to their husbands and husbands are to love their wives sacrificially. What do you think this looks like in everyday life, and how can both submission and leadership bring harmony to a marriage?
3. **The Importance of Humility:** Pride was highlighted as a common issue in marriages. Why do you think humility is essential in a relationship, and how can we practice humility within our family or friendships?
4. **Forgiveness and Healing in Relationships:** The sermon acknowledged the reality of broken marriages and emphasized God's healing. How can forgiveness play a role in strengthening our relationships, and what steps can we take to promote healing where hurt has occurred?
5. **Choosing a Partner and Growing Together:** The sermon provided advice for future spouses on choosing a partner wisely. What qualities do you think are vital in a future spouse, and how can couples support each other's growth in faith and character?

Family Conversation Guide for Children & Early Teens
Building a Godly Marriage
Colossians 3:18-19

AGES 5-7: SIMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE APPLICATION POINTS

1. Application Points

- A. Understanding Kindness: Teach children to share and be kind, just as God asks couples to treat each other with love and respect.
- B. Listening and Obeying: Just as the sermon talks about submission and listening to God's word, emphasize the importance of listening to parents and teachers.
- C. Forgiveness Practice: Encourage them to say "sorry" and forgive their friends or siblings when disagreements happen, reflecting God's forgiveness.

2. Discussion Questions

- A. How do you feel when someone shares their toys with you? Can we think of ways to be more kind to our friends?
- B. Why is it important to listen to Mommy and Daddy? How does listening help us learn and grow?
- C. What should we do if our friend says something mean to us? How can saying "I forgive you" make us feel better?

AGES 8-12: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION POINTS

1. Application Points

- A. Valuing Friendship: Discuss how valuing friends is similar to Godly relationships in family, by being loyal and supportive.
- B. Respecting Authority: Draw parallels between respecting parents or teachers and the importance of respecting structures in marriage.
- C. Digital Kindness: Introduce the concept of being kind online, much like being respectful in face-to-face interactions.

2. Discussion Questions

- A. How can you show your friends that they are important to you? What does being a good friend look like?
- B. Why is it important to listen and follow advice from our parents or teachers? How does this make us better people?
- C. How can we treat others with kindness on social media or in digital games? What would Jesus want us to do if someone is mean online?

AGES 11-15: DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS

1. Application Points

- A. Building Trusting Relationships: Encourage teens to develop friendships based on trust and mutual respect, the same foundation a marriage needs.
- B. Pride and Humility: Discuss the dangers of pride and the importance of humility in daily interactions and decisions, as mentioned in the sermon.
- C. Responsible Digital Footprint: Talk about maintaining a digital presence that reflects personal values like integrity and respect, aligning with Christian teachings.

2. Discussion Questions

- A. What qualities do you look for in a friend, and how do you show that you can be trusted? How does this relate to building a strong family?
- B. Can pride sometimes prevent us from saying sorry or admitting we're wrong? How can practicing humility improve our relationships?
- C. How can we make sure our social media profiles reflect our true values? What steps can we take to ensure our words and actions online are respectful and kind?

Tips for Parents

- Be patient and listen: Give your child time to think and respond.
- Relate to everyday life: Use real-life examples and stories familiar to your child to make abstract concepts more tangible.
- Encourage questions: Let your son or daughter know it's okay to ask questions, even if things don't make sense right away.
- Share personal insights: Tell a personal story about a time you experienced these themes, adapting as needed for age appropriateness.

Family Conversation Guide for Gen Z

Building a Godly Marriage

Colossians 3:18-19

I. Group Settings: Practicing Unity and Serving Others

1. Bible Basis: Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV) - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."
2. Scenario: In group projects or activities, prioritize the group's success over personal recognition by actively listening and encouraging all members to contribute their strengths.
3. Discussion: How do you handle situations where group members have differing opinions? How can you ensure everyone feels valued and included, even if it means compromising personal desires?

II. Relationships: Building Relationships on Respect and Forgiveness

1. Bible Basis: Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) - "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."
2. Scenario: In relationships with friends or significant others, practice open communication and forgiveness when conflicts arise, rather than holding grudges or avoiding issues.
3. Discussion: How can practicing forgiveness change the dynamics of your friendships? What steps can you take to address conflicts in a way that mirrors Jesus' teachings on love and forgiveness?

III. Digital Spaces: Integrity and Light in Digital Spaces

1. Bible Basis: Matthew 5:16 (NIV) - "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
2. Scenario: Use social media and other digital platforms as a means to spread positivity and encourage others, rather than engaging in gossip or tearing others down.
3. Discussion: What are some practical ways you can let your light shine online? How do your digital actions reflect your values, and how can you ensure they align with your faith?