

Sermon Notes: The Design of the Family Part 2

Text:

Proverbs 23:34-35 — **24** The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise *child* will delight in him. **25** Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her who bore you rejoice.

Colossians 3:18-20 — **18** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. **19** Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. **20** Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

Take Away: *The foundation of the godly family is a godly marriage—a marriage that plays out the drama of the gospel for the children to see. A husband who, like Christ, is the priest/king who lovingly lays down his life for his wife in sacrificial headship. A wife who, like the church, lovingly lays down her life in sacrificial submission to her husband. Their sacrificial love is rooted in not just love for each other, but loving obedience to God and His good design.*

I. Checking our Presuppositions: *(References:)*

II. The Design and the Temptation: *(References: Deuteronomy 17:16, 17; 1 Timothy 5:8; 1 Kings 3:9-10; Ephesians 5:25-27; Psalm 128:3; 1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 5:28-29; Proverbs 21:9)*

III. The Gospel and the Husband: *(References: Hosea 1:2-3, 6:1-2)*

Review:

- 1. Acknowledging God's Design:** In thinking rightly about marriage and the family we must acknowledge that God's good design involves hierarchy. God has woven hierarchy within Creation and it is an inescapable _____. Even when humanity, in sin rejects God's design, we simply make competing wicked hierarchies. Sinful man either constructs hierarchies that assign value and worth to those who are on higher rungs, think India's caste system, or we fall into the Marxist trap of believing that if we obliterate all distinctions of hierarchy we will achieve _____—only to suffer under a god-like dictator who fills the hierarchical power vacuum. If we are to rightly understand marriage, we must right understand God's design for it. His design is not primarily economical, but _____. Before discussion of division of labor, we must see that husband and wife were designed to sit at a table in worship with the Lord. An oxen or a horse would have been useful to Adam economically, but those animals cannot share with Adam in the table fellowship worship of the Triune God. In this way, the animals were not fitted for it, so God made Eve.
- 2. The "Fittedness" of the Wife:** God's design for the wife is not ethereal or vague, but specific and intentional. She has been fitted for it. She isn't a "second-class citizen" to her husband, nor is she a mere "servant". As Christ does for the Church, the husband does not call her "servant" but "_____." The office of *friend* in Scripture is the chief counselor to the king. Therefore, the wife is the husband's most trusted ally and intimate _____. She demonstrates her submission not by cheap obedience, but by a costly _____ of her hopes, dreams, gifts, and talents to his liturgical mission.
- 3. The Gospel and the Wife:** Because of the high calling of this kind of submission, she must resist the temptation offered to Eve in the garden—to tear the _____ robe off the husband and assume his role. Our enemy divided our first parents by getting Eve to play the husband and Adam to play the wife. Because of this, it is still the temptation that is offered up to the wife: "Things would go so much better if I just ran the show." But the answer to difficulties in marriage isn't to _____ the roles, but to lean in by faith and obey Christ. We looked at the example of Abigail, who had one of the most terrible husbands in Scripture—_____. Yet, by faith in God she leaned into her role as a wife and did everything she could to save his household from the wrath of David. In so doing she displayed the glorious beauty of the role of wife such that David was saved from sinful wrath, and Nabal's household was spared.

Questions for the Table:

1. Why has the office of husband been so derided in popular media over the past several decades? Analyze some examples from movies, TV shows, or commercials that you have seen.
2. How is patriarchy unavoidable? What is the flavor of patriarch today?
3. What does it mean for the husband to *tend* and *keep* his marriage and family?
4. Look at 1 Timothy 3:4-5. Why must it be men who lead the church?
5. How is bitterness the temptation for the husband in marriage? What two ditches can it lead him to?
6. Discuss why the gospel-drama involves husbands *loving* wives and wives *respecting* husbands.