

March 17, 2024
Colossians 3:18-21

READ Colossians 3:18-21

INTRODUCTION

We have come to the meat and potatoes of Paul's encouragement to the Colossian church.

Colossians 1:10

...so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Colossians 2:6

Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

Colossians 3:1

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

- **(Mark) Take off...the things that are below...of this world**
 - 3:5...you are dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.
 - 3:8...But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.

- **(Steve) Put on...the things that are from above...come from the Lord Jesus.**
 - 3:12...put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;
 - 3:13...forgiving one another
 - 3:14...United through love - one of our core values, bound together through love.
 - It is actually through the demonstration and showing of love to one another that we are bound together.
 - Let the Holy Spirit work through us as we physically become the hands and feet of Christ to those around us.

- **This is Paul's favorite rhetorical tactic...in nearly all of his shorter epistles he uses this same Rhetoric.**
 - This is who you are in Christ, a New Creation, filled with the Holy Spirit
 - **SO THAT**...we might live in right relationship with God and others.
 - This is practical theology. This isn't just a bunch of propositions to believe.
 - This is a relationship with God that overflows into every area of our lives.

- **Put off** the things of this world...and **put on** Christlikeness.
- This is because we, as a people who are still enticed by the wayward promises of the serpent of old, are prone to wander.
 - Prone to get distracted from the mission at hand.
 - Prone to turn inwardly to our selfish desires.
 - Prone to think escapist thoughts, focusing more on us going to heaven rathering than remembering the words our King told us to pray daily...
 - His Kingdom come, His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 - We, as the people of God, are to bring the Kingdom here.
 - Francis Schaefer talks about a false dichotomy that many Christians live by, they keep their spiritual life firmly in the upper story, the heavenly story, but never let it impact the earthly story.
- Paul wants each individual in this church to be Transformed into the Image of Christ.
 - To grow in their Christlikeness.
 - God has a vision for your future and it looks like Christ.
 - That is the goal of our sanctification and ultimately our glorification.
- And every time, when Paul has finished setting up that premise, when he transitions to the “meat” of his teaching he turns to the family.
- This is because the foundation of God’s kingdom is the institution of the family.
- **How do we fix the brokenness of a culture that looks more like a creepy carnival than a flourishing society?**
- **How are we, as the church, going to stand against the rising tide of NeoPaganism?**
 - **The answer isn’t going to be found in a carnal secular political solutions**
 - **Or in the sectarian pietism I unpacked a few weeks ago.**
- **Rather the answer is found in returning to the foundational principles of God’s Word.**
 - **And that foundation starts with the Family.**
- There is nothing that has been attacked more than the Family, Marriage, and Child-rearing.
 - Our whole secular and pagan culture is set-up to undermine these foundational relationships of society.
 - If you want to know what is important, look at what Satan is attacking.
- We are in a season culturally that we can’t afford to sit back ideally.

- We need to build.
 - And Paul shows us where to start building, start practicing, these new things we are told to “put on” through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- **It starts in the Family!**
- ****Note:** Each of these instructions are given because they are things that we are prone to do.

Colossians 3:18

18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

- Let’s look at a few other places where this word “subject” is used.

1 Corinthians 15:28

When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

Ephesians 1:22

And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Ephesians 5:24

But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

- Couple things to point out..
 - **1. This same language is used for Christ being subject to the Father.**
 - This has nothing to do with value or worth, but everything to do with relational order and sacrificial love.
 - Someone has to be the final authority, the one who takes responsibility.
 - You simply can’t have two heads.
 - This reminds us that the whole of God’s creation is hierarchical.
 - Genesis God takes chaos and orders it and says that it is good!
 - That order is hierarchy. And surprise surprise, the world says hierarchy is bad.
 - (It can most definitely be corrupted, just like anything, but it isn’t bad)
 - **2. Who is doing the subjecting? This isn’t coercion or manipulation.**
 - It is willful subjecting, coming under your husband's authority.
 - Young ladies and those not married. Don’t settle, find a man who’s authority you are willing to come under

- who will honor, love and cherish you.
- And to whom you can gladly join in the callings of God in His life.

Colossians 3:19

19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

- **Husbands, likewise, are to be the type of man that is worthy of a woman coming underneath his authority.**
- **A good definition of masculinity is “the glad assumption of sacrificial responsibility.”**
 - Masculinity isn’t just having a certain set of biological features, Masculinity is the accepting of responsibility.
 - The only kind of patriarchy that is Biblical is Sacrificial Patriarchy, Men you have been chosen to lead, you have been given authority, and that authority begins with laying down your life for others.
- **Men, you are to relate to your wife like Christ relates to the church.**
 - **What did Christ do?** He gladly took on responsibility for the sake of others, even to the cost of His own life.
 - There is nothing more masculine then, laying down your life for others.
 - We take responsibility for things, even when they are not our fault, because we are the head, endure the cost of that responsibility, and as a result, the world is healed, relationships are restored, and God is glorified through our love.
- **Husbands take responsibility...this is why he uses “do not be embittered”**
 - Because we have a tendency to want to avoid responsibility.
 - One of the common things we hear in marriage is that my wife is always nagging me. That might be true, but there also might be some truth in that nagging.
 - She might actually be doing her role.
 - **Wedding at Cana** - Mary calls Jesus into His responsibility.
- **Husbands do your part, Love, Honor, Cherish**
 - Wedding ceremony example. Christ and the Church
 - The husband loves, the wife responds in faith.
 - The husband leads the way, in everything (sacrifice, forgiveness, connection)...and wives you are to respond in faith.
 - Wives, on the flip side of this, you often want your husbands to lead, you just want him to lead like you want him to lead.
 - You can’t have it both ways.
 - If they are taking responsibility then they also get the freedom to lead.

****Important: Having mode vs Being mode.**

- Do you have a wife or are you being a husband?
- Do you have a husband or are you being a wife?
- Having is self-centered, being is others centered.
- You want a great marriage, then lay down your life.
- You can't have a resurrected marriage, without dying.

Colossians 3:20

20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

- Now Paul turns to the Children.
- Children are the natural and normative fruit of the marriage relationship.
- The biblical and natural view of children, how we see children, should be a blessing and not a curse.
 - Every time you hear a baby in service start fussing or crying or babbling, the correct and biblical response should be joy.
- This verse is specifically for everyone in the room who are still under their parents authority. You are under the care of your parents until you get married or leave the home.
- Your tendency is to want to reject the authority of your parents. Don't do it.
 - You will always be under some kind of authority, and you are best to be under the authority of those who gave you life. Or adopted you into a family.
 - Better them than someone else.
 - God promises that it will go well for you. It says it is pleasing to the Lord, and when the Lord is pleased it will go well with you.

Colossians 3:21

21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

- **Fathers, as the head of the household, you are responsible for the care and education of the children in the family.**
 - Being responsible doesn't mean doing it all, but you are responsible to make sure it is getting done.
- **And the way this gets done is important, so that it doesn't break the relationship.**
 - This seems to be a common problem in fallen human households, as seen all throughout the Bible. Do not provoke your children to wrath.
- **Encouragement to Fathers - to encourage your children.**
 - Don't have too many rules. But enforce the rules you have immediately.
 - Delayed obedience is disobedience.
 - Coordination of freedom and responsibility.
 - Break the cycle of generational sin. Deal with hidden sin.

- Speak life, blessings, hope and love to your kids.
 - Your words have enormous power, use it for building up.

Conclusion:

Nehemiah 4: Wall Builders, Sword and Trowel.

- **Build on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ, the rock on which we stand. The cornerstone that the world rejected.**
- **Build your portion of the wall. What has God put right in front of you? Don't worry about what is next, take care of what you have.**
- **Build like your life and the lives of your family depend on it.**
 - Stay on guard. Don't get distracted.
- **Build with an attitude of hopeful joy. Giving thanks in all circumstances, knowing that the harder the building process, the stronger the wall will be.**