

The Christian Family

Colossians 3:18-25

In the last 30 years Christianity has become the scapegoat for many of the worlds' problems. Much like the 1st C when Caesar Nero torched Rome then blamed it on the Christians. Persecution & martyrdom followed. Christians were accused of being the cause of much of the world's woes from global pollution to over population, instigating wars, oppressing women, advocating slavery, suppressing scientific advances, moral intolerance, homophobia & the list goes on.

Late media mogul Ted Turner said 'Christianity is not an environmentally friendly religion. Christians are dummies & the smart people of the world need to get all these dumb Christians to come along w/ us. Judeo-Christian religion has turned cities into hellholes.

Late & former Democrat Attorney General Janet Reno interviewed by 60 minutes, referred to born again Christians as 'A cultist is one who has a strong belief in the Bible & the 2nd coming of Christ; who frequently attends Bible studies; who has a high level of financial giving to a Christian cause; who home schools their children; who....has a strong belief in the second amendment; & who distrusts big government. Any of these may qualify a person as a cultist but certainly more than one of these would cause us to look at this person as a threat, & his family as being in a risk situation that qualifies for government interference. 6/26/94

The fact is that wherever Christ & the church goes the dignity of the individual is lifted & society as a whole advances. Hospitals, schools, the rule of law. political stability. family values, sanctity of life, freedom, etc.

The late Chuck Colson (prison fellowship; book--Born again) said 'Only Christianity provides an understanding of the true value of human lives. Christians believe that all humans are created in God's image & thus have great value—no matter how many of us there are or the color of our skin.

We see this truth when the bible deals with interpersonal relationships. How we are to treat each other. Sandwiched between an admonition to do ***whatever you do***, for the Lord, rather than for men vs 17 & 23 are listed five relationships & how we are to conduct ourselves as Christians is those relationships. Wife, Husband, Child, Father & Slaves (working for a boss).

The Christian Family

Colossians 3:18-25

Col 3:18-22 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them. 20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart. 22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who {merely} please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

Side note: Just because the bible addresses slavery doesn't mean it endorses slavery. When the scripture instructs how to live under an oppressive regime, Rome, it is not endorsing oppressive governments. The bible deals w/ current issues, up to date concerns, & how believers are to live under those conditions.

The Bible is a book of internal revelation not external revolution. It deals w/ changing a person on the inside not strategizing on how to change outside conditions. It tells those who are changed on the inside how to live in the framework of social institutions and world systems, good & bad.

Wives – During Paul's day & prior to Jesus coming women were viewed as objects to be used & discarded. **Playboy philosophy**--women were a possession. If married she was her husband's property as much as the house, flocks or fields. She had no legal rights. Jewish law permitted the husband to divorce his wife for any reason at all (**too much salt in soup**) but not so for the wife except for leprosy, apostasy or rape of a young girl.

Greek women lived entirely in seclusion, never appearing on the streets alone, not even for marketing. She lived in a women's apartment and did not join men for meals. Demanded of her was complete servitude & virtue while a husband could go out as much as he wanted & have as many relationships outside of marriage as he wanted. Under Greek & Jewish law all the privileges belonged to the husband & all the duties to the wife.

The Christian Family

Colossians 3:18-25

Jesus elevated womanhood.... ***'neither male nor female but we are one in Christ.'*** With new found freedom, comes responsibility (vs. **feminist manifesto despise men, cast off restraint**). Two rules in marriage, one for the husband & one for the wife. When you violate the rules you pay the price, strife, confusion & misery. Co-operation brings joy, blessing & fulfillment in marriage.

She is to be subject lit **'to arrange under, voluntary cooperation, yielding, subordinate'**. Used of Jesus in relations to His parents. ***Lk 2:51 And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them...***

It is used of Godly women of old... Sarah ***1 Pet 3:5,6....in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord and you have become her children if you do what is right w/o being frightened by any fear.***

The rule was not given to suppress but to liberate. When followed there is praise from God Himself because her submission is a sign of trusting God, and a beauty that is internal not merely external/

No fear from unbelieving husband or his foolish decisions. Her resolve was firm, no matter what she is exposed to. Calling him Lord, giving him permission to lead as head & direct the affairs of family. Sarah respected & yielded to Ab leadership, even when decision making was in question.

Gen 12:5 Abram took Sarai his wife...and all their possessions which they had accumulated....and they set out for the land of Canaan... Gen 18:6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Quickly, prepare three measures of fine flour, knead it, and make bread cakes." Gen 12:13 "Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you."

The Christian Family

Colossians 3:18-25

It sends the message to the *man* **'I trust you'** **'You are sooo smart'** **'You can do no wrong'** **'You're my knight in shining armor'** **'You're the king of our castle'**.

To him the message is translated; **'She believes in me'** **She trusts me'** **She looks up to me'** **She honors my position'** **'She thinks I'm the smartest guy in the world'** **'She depends upon me to make good decisions'**

The H.S. begins to work in him--a heightened sense of the importance of his leadership role, which causes him to want to make decisions that please the Lord & benefit the family.

Husbands – love – selfless love that doesn't seek a reward for itself but looks completely to the benefit of the one being loved. It is a love that listens to her w/ the intent of understanding her.

Embittered – sharp, piercing (a habit). A husband that keeps bringing up the past is embittered. Marriage will never move forward. If a wife is not sure of her husbands' love, she will be insecure and pestering. It's the most important ingredient for to a wife. Greatest need of wife is to know her husband loves her supremely. You can't say I love you enough. Love is like sunshine to a flower. The wife is the glory of the husband, she reflects his love or lack of it. I cor 11:7 Also **1Pet 3:7 that your prayers not be hindered.**

Children obey – **'to hear under, knock at the door & listen who it is, listen w/ intent to do'**. **Lk 2:51 And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them..** **illus naylene**

A child that rebels & is defiant all their life, unwilling to listen to correction, ends up a fool, all hope for wisdom is lost. Security & self image comes

5

The Christian Family

Colossians 3:18-25

from obeying as a child. If we don't learn in the home, we'll be an outlaw in society. Duty of a child is to give honor to parents & obey their instruction.

First commandment in the 2nd table of the Law w/ a promise of long life.

Fathers – (note: refer to page four of Home improvement message)