



The "New" Life in Christ ... A Family Affair

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

March 22, 2020

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. – Col. 3:23-24

The first institution God founded on earth was the home (Gen. 2:18–25; Matt. 19:1–6). As goes the home, so goes society and the nation. The breakdown of the home is a sign of the end times (2 Tim. 3:1–5). Centuries ago Confucius said, "The strength of a nation is derived from the integrity of its homes." One of the greatest things we can do as individuals is helping to build godly Christian homes. Paul addressed the various members of the family and pointed out the factors that make for a strong and godly home.

The Christian at Home ... Col. 3:18-4:1

- I. Husbands and Wives ... vs. 18-19
 - _____ ... Your wife needs you to _____
 - _____ ... Your husband needs you to _____
- II. Parents and Children ... vs. 20-21
 - _____ ... Your children need to know they are _____
 - _____ ... Your children need to know they can't _____
- III. Masters and Servants ... vs. 3:22-4:1
 - _____ ... Do everything as if you are _____
 - _____ ... Pursue _____ – reject _____

Let's Consider ...

- I. It is entirely possible to be the greatest Christian at church and yet fail at your witness to the most important family you have ... the _____.

Truth for Life

For the week of March 22, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Is there a couple whose marriage you especially respect or admire? What characteristics of their marriage do you admire?

Can you think of any expectations or assumptions about marriage you had that you later discovered were inaccurate? Where do you think these expectations came from??
2. The first few chapters of Genesis tell the story of the creation of marriage. Although written more than 3000 years ago, the principles found there are still relevant to marriages today. Read through Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 2:18-25 and identify what insights about marriage do you observe?

How would you summarize why God created marriage?
3. "Every kid wants to know if they are loved and if they can get their own way." A parent's job is to give them the love they need and to set up clear and consistent boundaries and consequences. What does Hebrews 12:7-11 teach us about the goals of discipline?

What are some questions we could ask ourselves that would help us determine if we are giving discipline out of love or not?
4. We saw this weekend that encouragement is one of the keys in having positive influence on our children and others. What do these verses say about the power of encouragement?

2 Chronicles 32:6-8 Proverbs 16:24 Proverbs 25:11 Hebrews 3:12-13

Do you see any dangers of focusing our encouragement on someone's "performance" over their "purpose" or character qualities?
5. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.
 - a. Is there a place in Christian communication for "a good argument"? Why/why not?
 - b. Agree/disagree: Selfishness is the root of most communication problems?
 - c. Can parents be assured that if they raise their children properly, they will follow the Lord as adults? Why/why not?
 - d. Does honoring our parents imply never confronting their sins? How can we know what to accept and what to confront?



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The Christian at Home ... Col. 3:18-4:1

I. Husbands and Wives ... vs. 18-19

- **Love** ... Your wife needs you to **pursue her**
- **Submission** ... Your husband needs you to **respect him**

II. Parents and Children ... vs. 20-21

- **Encouragement** ... Your children need to know they are **loved**
- **Obedience** ... Your children need to know they can't **get their own way**

III. Masters and Servants ... vs. 3:22-4:1

- **Honesty** ... Do everything as if you are **doing it for God**
- **Devotion** ... Pursue **excellence** – reject **good enough**

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