

May 10, 2020
"Family, in the Name of Jesus"

Pastor Andy McClellan
Colossians 3:18-21

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12-21 ESV

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. 18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Outline (Blanks):

1. *Husbands & wives:*

Your _____, in the name of Jesus, will be

_____ - _____ in a fallen world, vv. 18-19
(*cf. Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Corinthians 7:33-34, 11:3; 1 Peter 3:1-7; Genesis 2:18*).

2. *Children:*

_____ your parents, in the name of Jesus, is an act of

_____ for the Lord, vv. 20 (*cf. Eph. 5:8-10, 6:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:6-15; Luke 12:51-53; 2 Timothy 3:2; Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 1:8-9*).

3. *Moms & Dads:*

Your _____, in the name of Jesus, is about

_____ your children to seek Jesus, v. 21 (*cf. Col. 3:1; Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Psalm 78:2-8, 127:3-5; Prov. 13:24; Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:1; Hebrews 12:5-11*).

Family Time:

Mother's Day is a reminder that God designed and created the family, including marriage, parents and children.

Read Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:4-25. When and why did God create marriage? What does that teach us about the importance of marriage in God's original design for His world? What did he command them to do in Gen. 1:22 and why? How did Satan and sin affect the family in Gen. 3 and 4? How do Satan and sin threaten the family today? In light of Colossians 3:18-21, what should we do in response?

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. Compare and contrast Ephesians 5:22-6:4 and Colossians 3:18-21 including their textual contexts. What does it say about the importance of the family that Paul wrote such similar words to two different churches? If Paul were writing the same letter to the American church, how would it be the same and how would it be different? What current cultural practices would Paul condemn or endorse in his instructions?
2. In Col. 3:18, Paul tells wives to submit to their husbands and husbands to love their wives and to not be harsh with them. What do those things look like in practice? How have/can those words be(en) abused in their application, and what examples have you seen of how they are best applied? What does it take to apply them well?
3. These verses on the family comes just following Col. 3:1-17, which speak to the experience of a person "raised with Christ" (v. 1). It can be easy to apply those verses to life with people in the church, but what would marriage and parenting look like if we consistently lived out vv. 12-17 in our families? How would that be a testimony to the world of the difference Christ makes in those who are raised with him? Which of the virtues or practices in vv. 12-17 do you need to "put on" in your marriage or relationship with your children? How will you do that?
4. In Col. 3:21, what does it mean to "provoke" a child? What does it mean that they will become discouraged? Discouraged from what? What is the opposite of provoking and discouraging a child? How do we do that? Use the cross references in Pt. 3 above if you need help.
5. In light of these instructions for families, how can the local church (DCC for example) help families in their marriages and parenting? Make a list of ways that the body of Christ can assist married couples, parents and children in growing in these areas. We'd love to hear your ideas. Email them to andrew.mcclellan@damascuscc.org.

NEXT WEEK: "Work, in the Name of Jesus" Colossians 3:22-4:1