

The 24th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, November 19, 2017

“The Supremacy of Christ ~ Real Relationships”

Colossians 3:18-4:1

It’s part of the Good News that Jesus can make a _____ in our everyday _____ with others.

4 GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

#1. Faith needs to come _____ with us.

The true test of our relationship with Christ is how we _____ to others.

#2. Paul is talking about _____ and not _____.

Culture, gender, and economic distinctions are no longer _____ when it comes to salvation; and everyone is _____ in Christ, regardless of status. Having said that, Husbands and wives, parents and children, masters and servants have different _____ to play within the family.

#3. Relationships are meant to be _____.

Historical _____ is important here; and the instructions in this passage show special concern for those who were looked _____ on in the first century:

#4. Families need _____.

Just as God created physical and natural laws to govern the universe, He also created _____ and practical parameters to govern the family.

The prayer book calls marriage a _____ state. It does this because the union of man and women, in heart, body, and mind, is a _____ of the relationship between Christ and His _____. It’s a living and breathing argument for the _____.

The Christian understanding of marriage is that it’s a _____ between two people—not a _____ that can be easily broken; not an _____ based on performance or how we might be feeling at the time.

Marriage requires _____, daily, hard work and _____.

“Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.” (Colossians 3:18-19)

This short verse contains God’s _____ for Christian marriage. It describes marriage as partnership between two people, in which each person fulfils a certain _____.

The notion of headship in marriage isn’t _____ or lordship—it’s a loving relationship; and we need to remember that elsewhere in Scripture, husbands and wives are both called to submit themselves to the Lord and to _____.

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Ephesians 5:21)

Submit = *hupotasso* =

It’s a _____ term meaning to arrange troops under the command of a leader. In non-military use, it’s a _____ attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden.

Spiritually speaking, this word is used throughout the NT to mean a voluntary _____ to someone else, particularly to someone who has God-given _____.

We can only do this when we’ve first submitted to the _____ of Jesus, through the power of His _____.

The reason the word ‘submit’ has such a negative connotation in our culture is we’ve made it all about _____ and _____.

Submission is something that _____ do. Scripture tells us that Jesus submitted to God during His life on earth, yet He was no way _____ to Him.

Forcing someone to submit because you have authority or power over them isn’t godly submission—it’s _____.

This isn’t submission to some _____, impersonal, authority, but rather to the man with whom they have an _____, personal, and vital relationship.

A women submits to her husband by helping him _____ in his spiritual leadership in the home; by helping him to become the _____ of God that he was created to be.

A women submits to her husband by not _____ his leadership and authority and speaking _____ about him to their children or to others.

Paul’s words here do not mean that a wife’s submission is _____.

“...submit to your husbands, as is fitting to the Lord.” (Colossians 3:18)

It’s fitting for the wife to follow the leading of her husband. However, it’s only fitting _____ the Lord. And _____ is the one who determines what is fitting. A wife is never to submit to a husband who is doing anything that goes against God’s _____ as revealed in His _____, because her ultimate submission is to the Lord first.

A wife’s submission can also be _____. In submitting to her husband, rather than asserting her own will, a wife can help _____ her husband and even bring him to _____.

“Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.” (1 Peter 3:1-2)

At the end of the day, this isn’t about the _____—a wife’s submission to her husband is ultimately between her and _____.

**What are you thinking about all this? What are you hearing this morning?
What’s God saying to you?**

“Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.” (Colossians 3:19)

Bad marriages are often the result of the husband’s _____ to love his wife, instead of the wife’s _____ to submit. And I suspect—at least in a Christian context—that most wives would willingly follow the leadership of their husband if they knew they were loved _____.

Ephesians 5:25 tells us that husbands are to love their wives in the same way that Christ loves the _____. The kind of love that Paul describes here isn’t just about _____ or physical _____.

Love = *agape* =

A husband loves his wife by being fully _____ to her; making her, their marriage, and children a _____; by giving of himself—his time, attention, thoughts, and _____, his heart, mind, and body—all that he is and all that he has—so that his wife can experience something of the _____ and goodness of God.

This requires a husband to _____—to put his wife and her needs ahead of his own.

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (John 15:3)

If a wife is submitting to her husband and yielding to his direction, it implies that he’s taking them somewhere—that he’s _____.

Husbands, where are you leading your wives? Are you being intentional about maximizing her joy in the Lord or are you just taking her for granted, content to be served all the time?

Husbands also love their wives by putting away _____. In other words, husbands are not to let their hearts become _____ against their wife.

An embittered heart against a wife is most likely the product of the husband dwelling on her _____ and sins instead of on his own. The godly alternative is for husbands to be intentional about _____ God for their wives and for the many ways in which they’ve been _____ by them. In other words, they need to dwell on evidence of God’s _____ in their wife’s life and not on their _____.

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WHY ARE THESE COMMANDS EVEN IN THE BIBLE?

- **To _____ what was _____ in the fall.**

Part of the consequences of Adam and Eve eating the fruit in the garden, was how husband and wife would _____ to each other.

“Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” (Genesis 3:16)

The curse of sin resulted in the wife’s tendency to want _____ over her husband and not submit to him, and the husband’s tendency to lead her in a _____ or harsh way.

The new life we have in Christ undoes the _____ of the curse; and love and submission in marriage promises to bring about the best possible _____.

- **To draw attention to the _____.**

The Lord commands wives to submit to their husbands so they can show the willing and joyful submission of the _____ to Christ her Saviour. And the Lord commands husbands to love their wives so they can show the love that Christ has for His _____, the church.