

The Hope of Glory:

An Exposition of Colossians

November 8, 2020

Sermon 14: Family and the Hope of Glory

Colossians 3:18-21

Opening Point: “I do not reason with women or dogs.” This is something that a man said to me in a previous ministry. He was new to the church and wanted to get to know me better, so he asked me out to lunch. Most of the conversation was about how his wife didn’t always listen to him, so he had to “put his foot down.” He added that his step-daughters didn’t always do what he said, so he had to put his foot down. Even his dog was female, which led to the consternation of this man. My response to him was, “Well, the thing is that women are not content to be treated like dogs, because they are not dogs. Dogs might tolerate being treated like dogs, because they are dogs, but why on Earth would women tolerate being treated like dogs?” Needless to say, that was one awkward lunch!

Our theme for Colossians 3: *The focus of our lives reveals the nature of our hope of glory.*

This morning, we will focus on the family.

I. Introduction/Review

A. It is undeniable that the idea and emphasis on family has radically shifted in our country.

1. ILL: Sundays at Grandmom’s house. It seemed like the whole family was there. I miss those times.
2. ILL: Growing up. Family was first. Our allegiance was to be to our family before anyone else.

B. It is unavoidable that the Bible presents a certain basic family structure.

1. It is really tempting to impose our ideas and cultural norms on the Bible, but that is impossible to do if we want to retain biblical authority in our lives, church and culture.
2. It seems self-evident to me that the Bible’s structure for a family is the best.

II. Wives and Husbands—Colossians 3:17-18

A. Wives are to submit to their husbands (v. 18).

1. Why say this? Why are we forced to say this?
 - a. Because this is what the Bible says. It is meaningless to give lip service to the authority of Scripture if we only follow it in the things that come easy to us or are readily accepted in our culture.
 - b. Now, we have to be sure that we understand what the Bible is ACTUALLY saying, therefore:
2. What does this mean?
 - a. To “submit” or “be subject” here (ὑποτάσσω) refers to a voluntary deference to someone else’s lead.
 - b. Very important: Recognize that there are two types of subordination!
 - c. Ontological subordination
 - i. Of submission involving recognition of superiority or inferiority of person or being.
 - ii. Simply: to submit because you are a lesser being.
 - a) Examples:
 - If you find a cockroach on your counter, looking for food, you don’t say, “Well, Mr. cockroach...I am no higher than you are. Let me get you something to eat. No. You kill the cockroach. Right?
 - d. Functional subordination
 - i. “Of submission involving recognition of an ordered structure, of the entity to whom/which appropriate respect is shown.”
 - a) Examples:
 - When a Police officer pulls you over and gives you a ticket, you don’t respond by saying, “What? You think you’re better than me?” No. His or her authority is a

functional authority. Submitting to that doesn't mean that you are admitting to be a lesser human.

3. What does this NOT mean?

- a. It does not mean "obedience."
 - i. At least, when it comes to wives toward their husbands.
- b. It does not mean "inferiority."
 - i. **Galatians 3:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- c. It does not mean "abuse."
 - i. **Malachi 2:13-15** (have them open their Bibles)

4. Why/how should we apply this?

- a. As is pleasing to the Lord.
 - i. This means that we retain a belief in and commitment to the family structure because it pleases Christ.
 - ii. This also means that we retain a belief in and commitment to the family structure as far as it DOES please Christ.
 - a) Obviously, we should never follow anyone's lead when they are leading us into sin.
 - b) However, it is reasonable for a wife to submit to a husband even though he is not a perfect husband...or even a Christian.
 - 1 Peter 3:1-2
 - 1 Corinthians 7:10

Practical exhortation: Wives, please be aware that other men will never respect your husband if you rule him. If you run over him, so will the men in his life. ILL: Infamous lady in Sunday School.

B. Husbands are to love their wives (v. 19).

1. Is that it? Really? Well...

- a. See Ephesians 5:25-31
 - i. Our model for affection and behavior is Christ. How are you doing with that?

2. What does this mean?

- a. To delight in them as the beloved provision of God.
 - i. This is the command stated positively.
 - ii. This is not shallow. In fact, I would argue that this is the deepest affection attainable.
 - iii. This is not simply emotional:
 - a) Your delight will lead you to treasure your wife by being good to her.
 - b) Your delight will lead you to treasure your wife in doing good for her.
- b. To refuse to be embittered toward them.
 - i. Husbands, if you absolutely refuse to stop loving your wife, no matter what bumps and conflicts life throws at you, you will honor Christ and bless your wife.
 - ii. Refuse language like "the old ball and chain," "the warden," "The old lady," or even "the boss."

3. What does this call us to?

- a. To genuinely feel and sincerely act in such a way that emphasizes the blessing and worth of our wife.
- b. To refuse to allow our hearts to begin to think of our wives in an unreasonably negative way.

III. Parents and Children—Colossians 3:20-21

A. Children are to obey their parents (v. 20).

1. What does this mean?
 - a. Notice that the word here, “obey” is different...stronger than the verb referring to wives.
 - i. This is the word “upokouw” which means, simply, “to obey”.
 - b. Children are called on to submit to the authority that their parents have over them.
 - i. Notice, however, that this doesn’t mean that all children have to obey all adults.
 - a) Example #1—If you boss my kids around, they don’t have to necessarily obey.
 - b)
 - c. Parents can tell their kids what to do (within obvious limits).
 - i. Deuteronomy 5:16

B. Parents are to deal reasonably with their children (v. 21).

1. What does this mean?

Point: I have seen professing Christians bully their kids. I have seen professing Christians berate their kids in public. I have seen fathers verbally emasculate their sons in front of other adults, only to feel like a tough guy. I praise God that He is not that type of Father and I pray that I would never be. Even if I cannot win my children, I still refuse to crush them.

- a. We should strive to be the kind of parents that set reasonable and clear expectations for our kids.
 - i. An effective way to drive your child to despair is to teach them that their best is not good enough.
 - ii. An effective way to drive your child to despair is to constantly compare them with others.
 - b. We should strive to be the kind of parents that communicate affection instead of only criticism.
 - i. An effective way to drive your child to despair is to constantly be on their case.
 - a) This will teach them to resent you.
 - b) This will teach them to resent God.
2. Why?
 - a. Otherwise our children will lose heart.
 - b. They may never feel good enough.
 - c. They may never even try.
 - d. They may begin to resent the family and the God who designed it.

IV. Conclusions

- A. Christian marriages should be the best marriages in the world. Why aren’t they?**
- B. Christian marriages should be a great witness to the world. Why aren’t they?**
- C. Let’s pray for one another and for our families.**