

Agape Baptist Church – October 22, 2017

Family Matters - *Colossians 3:18-21*

Life-Truth: The home is the place you most quickly drop your guard, and therefore it is a primary context of faith formation.

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him” ... Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. Genesis 2

- A hidden mystery: From the beginning God modeled marriage after the relationship (*to one day be revealed*) between Jesus Christ and His church.
 - Compare **Genesis 2:24** and **Ephesians 5:31-32**
- Husband and wife lived out God’s design with no division, conflict, or shame.
- The fall resulted in a rebellious distortion of this design.

When the woman saw the tree was good for food...a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths...To the woman he said, “Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.” Gen 3

- The wife would now desire to conquer her husband.
- The husband would now desire to harshly rule his wife.

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- The wife would now desire to conquer her husband.
- The husband would now desire to harshly rule his wife.

- The New Testament instructions reaffirm God’s plan for the order and distinct roles of Christian marriage.
 - o **Further reading:** Ephesians 5:22-33

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

- Wives are assigned active and joyful submission.
 - o Submission is *not* silent neutrality.
 - o *But put to death urges to assume control.*
- Husbands are assigned loving and considerate leadership.
 - o Headship is *not* passive observation.
 - o *But put to death urges of unkind domination.*
- We’re responsible to God, no matter a spouse’s behavior.
Life-Truth: Spiritual change comes only through Spiritual power. **Further reading:** James 1:20 and 1 Peter 3:1-2

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. Colossians 3:20-21

- Children obey primarily as submission to God.
 - o Maturity is shown by respect amid frustration.
 - o Joyfully accept authority to prepare for the future
- Parental words, tones, and behaviors should be measured and suitable to our calling in Christ.
 - o Our discipline should encourage our children that they are responsible, loved, and worthwhile.

Question for going deeper: Does our family routinely practice repentance over our rebellion to God’s design? See **Acts 3:19-20**

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