

THE KINGDOM OF THE BELOVED SON: LIFE UNDER THE REIGN OF JESUS CHRIST

Topics:

1. Our Cosmic Deliverance: Where the Christian Life Begins (Col 1:13-14)
2. Christ is All, and in All: Our Identity in the Kingdom (Col 3:11)
3. The Society of Jesus: Our Church in the Kingdom (Col 3:12-17)
4. *In Nomine Christi*: Our Conduct in the Kingdom (Col 3:17)
- 5. The Dream Home: Our Families in the Kingdom (Col 3:18-21)**
6. The Heaven-Bound Heart: The Quest for the Kingdom (Col 3:1-4)

THE DREAM HOME: OUR FAMILIES IN THE KINGDOM (COL 3:18-21)

I. Lord of the Small Things

II. Colossians 3:18-21: The House Rules

- A. Wives, *Submit* (Col 3:18)
 1. Why wives must submit
 2. What submission does and does not entail
 - a. Submission is not worship
 - b. But submission is still submission
- B. Husbands, *Love* (Col 3:19; Eph 5:25-28)
 1. Love = saying no to harshness
 2. Love = saying yes to self-sacrificing care
 - a. Physical care: the husband as provider and protector
 - b. Emotional care: the husband as companion
 - c. Spiritual care: the husband as pastor
- C. Children, *Obey* (Col 3:20)
 1. Obedience is not based on the worthiness of our parents but on the Lord's command
 2. Obedience is not a shame because everyone has to obey the Lord
- D. Fathers, *Do Not Provoke* (Col 3:21)
 1. How we provoke our children.
 - a. By constantly harping on their mistakes
 - b. By comparing them to other children
 - c. By giving them the impression that we are never satisfied with their work
 - d. By punishing them without appealing to their rationality or conscience
 - e. By never admitting to our own sins

III. Making the Dream Home a Reality

- A. The presence of Christ in us commands our obedience
- B. The presence of Christ in us *causes* our obedience. It reproduces his submission, love, obedience, and tenderness in our home

Embracing God’s Word: “Having been forgiven of my sins, having been embraced by the Lord Jesus Christ my Savior, I now devote my home to the Lord. I place my home in his service. I offer up my home for the honor of his name. I desire that my home be a sanctuary from the darkness and coldness of this world. I desire that my home be a temple of the Lord Jesus. In light of this, I will render my duties to all in my house. As a wife, I subordinate myself to my husband. I resolve to support all that God has called him to do. As a husband, I resolve to love my wife, and pursue all her good, stopping at nothing until Christ is formed in her. As a child, I resolve to see the Lord Jesus in my parents. In obeying them, I obey him. As a father (or mother), I resolve to do good and show grace to my child, knowing that my heavenly Father continues to do the same for me.”

Questions for further discussion:

1. What does the wife’s submission entail and what does it not entail?
2. What are some ways that wives do *not* submit to their husbands?
3. Sally is married to a slob named Dave. He orders her around the house. He makes her clean up after his mess while he watches TV; makes her do the chores while he hangs out with his buddies at the local pub. However, Sally feels that she should not resist because it is not as if Dave is asking her to do sinful things. How would you counsel Sally? Can Sally ever say no to her husband?
4. How are husbands to love their wives?
5. How do husbands fail to love their wives? More specifically, what are some ways in which husbands act harshly toward their wives?
6. What are some ways by which parents provoke their children? How may we guard against each of these ways?
7. How do we attain the kind of family the Lord Jesus wants of us?