

The Family, Employment, and the Cross

Colossians 3:18-25

I. Marriage

A. Should Point Others to the Cross. vv. 18-19

1. Ephesians 5:22-24
2. Ephesians 5:33
3. Matthew 22:30

If Christ is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all! Romans 5:8

B. GOALS FOR OUR MARRIAGE

1. Pray together every night. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
2. Read Scripture together every day. (Psalm 119:20,97,105; Joshua 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:15)
3. Constantly work to put each other first. (Philippians 2:3-5)
4. "Our Time" at least once a week. (Ecclesiastes 9:9)
5. "Talk Time" Listen to each other; show genuine interest and concern in each other's activities, responsibilities, and burdens. (Galatians 6:2)
6. Never leave or go to bed angry at each other; take all disagreements to the Lord. (Ephesians 4:26,27)
7. Stay true to your vows to each other (Ecclesiastes 5:5; Proverbs 2:16,17). Remember, true love lasts. (1 Corinthians 13:8) If for some reason you break a vow, you must confess, repent, and humble yourself. (James 5:16)
8. Be forgiving of each other by never bringing up wrongs committed in the past, dwelling on them in your own mind, or discussing them with others. (Psalm 103:12; Colossians 3:13)
9. Don't allow yourselves to be put in compromising situations. Have character (be the same away from one another's presence as we would in one another's presence). (1 Corinthians 6:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:22)
10. Never tear down; always build up. (Ephesians 4:29) Communicate consistently, clearly, cautiously, and caringly with each other. (James 1:19; Ephesians 4:32)

Marriage is a beautiful picture of God's love for us.

He gave His life for the bride, the church!

II. The Family: Should Display the Patience of the Cross. vv.20-21

A. Children's Responsibility:

1. Exodus 20:12
2. Exodus 21:15-17
3. Ephesians 6:1-3
 - a. To be a good leader, you must be a great follower!
 - b. The older I get the wiser my parents become!
Luke 12:51-53
 - c. The motive for obedience to our parents is that it is well-pleasing to the Lord.

B. Parent's Responsibility:

1. They ought to see in their human father a reflection of the heavenly Father.
2. We can't simply raise our children in church, we have to be overtly intentional to raise them in Christ! **James 1:5**

III. Employment

A. Employment Should Demonstrate the Perseverance of the Cross.vv.22-25

B. Employee responsibilities: Hard Work

1. **Proverbs 13:4**
2. **2 Thessalonians 3:10-12**
3. **Proverbs 14:23**
4. **Philippians 2:14-15**
5. **1 Corinthians 10:31**
6. **1 Thessalonians 4:11-12**

IV. Employer responsibilities: Fairness and Forgiveness **Philemon 17-20**