

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for June 14-15, 2003

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"Pursuing God in Our Family"

Colossians 3:18-21

Colossians 1 grounds the church in truth.

Colossians 2 guards the church from error.

Colossians 3:1-17 grows the church in relation to God.

Colossians 3:18-4:18 guides the church in relation to others.

1. The problems of the family

- a. Wives can become independent
- b. Husbands can become selfish
- c. Children can become rebellious
- d. Fathers can become provoking

2. The prescription for the family

- a. The responsibility of wives to their husbands

What subjection is not:

- It is not inferiority
- It is not unlimited
- It is not devoid of discussion
- It is not an excuse
- It is not apart from agreement
- It is not merely an act

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What subjection is:

- It is an attitude
- It is for everyone
- It is an expression of faith
- It is to God

It is "fitting" in the Lord because if we have died and been raised with Christ (3:1-4), we are willing to serve others and not just ourselves (Romans 15:1-3; Philippians 2:3-4).

b. The responsibility of husbands to their wives

"Embittered" usually refers to a bitter taste but here it speaks of "resentment." The antidote is love.

Just as wives must trust God's work through their husbands, so husbands must trust God's work through their wives.

c. The responsibility of children to their parents

When does this command no longer apply? The word "children" carries a sense of a dependent rather than a descendent.

Those who are to submit should see their submission as to the Lord, rather than to a person (cf. 3:18; 3:23).

As a child matures, we should seek for less dependency and give more responsibility.

d. The responsibility of fathers to their children

This is addressed to fathers as head of the household and applies to parents (cf. Hebrews 11:23).

The antidote for exasperating your children is love, to treat them as you would have wished to be treated.

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3. The potential for the family

- a. The potential for maturity (Luke 6:40)

- b. The potential for mediocrity (Revelation 3:15-16)

- c. The potential for ministry (John 12:24)