

Colossians – Week 11 – A New Home – Bible Study Helps

Title: A New Home: God's Blueprint for Christian Marriage and Family

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores Colossians 3:18-21, presenting God's design for the Christian home as a transformative calling rather than optional suggestions. It emphasizes that believers are "new creatures" in Christ, and this new identity must visibly manifest first in the home. The message addresses four key relationships: wives submitting to husbands as unto the Lord, husbands loving wives sacrificially as Christ loved the church, children obeying parents in all things, and fathers nurturing rather than provoking their children. The central theological point is that obedience to these commands is not merely about being a good family member—it constitutes one's Christian duty and worship to God. When families follow God's order, they create a peaceful environment that glorifies Christ and serves as a powerful witness to the world. The sermon challenges listeners to surrender their lives completely to God's blueprint, acknowledging that only through Christ's power can these high callings be fulfilled.

Key Points:

- These are not marriage and family options to consider but commands from God to obey
- Wives are called to voluntarily submit to their own husbands as part of God's order for the home, not because husbands deserve it, but as unto the Lord
- Submission means following the husband's leadership as it is "fit in the Lord"—within biblical boundaries, not requiring sin
- Husbands must love their wives sacrificially and unconditionally, as Christ loved the church, and not be bitter or harsh
- Both spouses are to obey God's commands regardless of whether their partner is fulfilling their role
- Children who obey their parents in all things are offering worship that is "well pleasing unto the Lord"
- Fathers must not provoke their children to anger or discouragement through harshness, inconsistency, or unfairness
- The home is the first visible place where the "new man" in Christ must operate
- A Christian marriage is a picture of Christ and His bride, the church
- Obedience in family roles is not about rules but about freedom and glorifying God
- Young people should carefully choose spouses who love Christ and will fulfill biblical roles
- The father sets the spiritual tone and bears ultimate responsibility for the family's leadership

Scripture Reference:

- Colossians 3:1-21 (primary focus on verses 18-21)
- Ephesians 5:22-25
- 1 Peter 3:1-7
- 1 Corinthians 13 (charity/love)
- Psalm 103:13

Colossians – Week 11 – A New Home – Bible Study Helps

Stories:

- The story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, noting Adam had only two verses of instruction yet still disobeyed
- Reference to Sarah obeying Abraham and calling him "lord" as the biblical example for wives
- The story of an elderly missionary woman who never married because she couldn't find a man who she believed would care for her and she could respect and follow biblically
- A personal anecdote about his toddlers first saying "no" and learning boundaries
- Illustration of a newlywed couple disagreeing which is the true test of submission
- Example of a child excited about accomplishments but the father only noticing shoelaces untied
- The memory of disciplining children with love and explanation
- Hypothetical scenario of young people choosing marriage partners based on superficial qualities rather than spiritual commitment

Colossians – Week 11 – A New Home – Bible Study Helps

Discipleship Questions

How does understanding submission as 'God's order' rather than forced obedience change your perspective on the biblical command for wives to submit to their husbands?

In what ways might a husband's failure to love sacrificially make it more difficult for his wife to fulfill her biblical role, and how can couples help each other obey God's commands regardless of the other's faithfulness?

Why do you think God gives six verses of instruction to wives about submission but only one verse to husbands about love in 1 Peter , and what does this reveal about His understanding of each role's challenges?

How can children view obedience to parents as an act of worship to God rather than merely following rules, and what difference would this perspective make in their daily attitudes?

What are the dangers of fathers provoking their children to anger through harshness or inconsistency, and how might this damage a child's understanding of God as Father?

How does the marriage relationship serve as a picture of Christ and the church, and what responsibility does this place on Christian couples in their witness to the world?

In what ways do modern cultural pressures and media influence make it harder for families to follow God's blueprint for the home, and how can believers resist these influences?

Why is it significant that God describes a meek and quiet spirit as 'of great price' in His sight, and how does this challenge contemporary values about strength and assertiveness?

How can single people or those considering marriage use these biblical principles to make wiser decisions about whom they choose as a spouse?

What does it mean that obeying these family roles is not just about being a good spouse, parent, or child, but is actually central to your identity as a follower of Jesus Christ?

Small Group Guide:

A New Home

Based on Colossians 3:18-21

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: What is one characteristic of your childhood home that you'd like to replicate (or avoid) in your own family?

Key Scripture Passages

- **Primary Text:** Colossians 3:18-21
 - **Supporting Texts:** Ephesians 5:22-33, 1 Peter 3:1-7, 1 Corinthians 13
-

Main Sermon Points

1. God's Blueprint for Marriage

- Wives: Submit to your own husbands as it is fit in the Lord
- Husbands: Love your wives and be not bitter against them
- These are commands to obey, not options to consider

2. God's Design for Children

- Children: Obey your parents in all things (this is well-pleasing to the Lord)
- This obedience is worship to God

3. God's Charge to Fathers

- Fathers: Provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged
 - Balance correction with encouragement and love
-

Discussion Questions

For Everyone:

1. **Opening Reflection:** What was your initial reaction to hearing this sermon? Was there anything that challenged you or made you uncomfortable? Why?
2. **The New Home Concept:** The sermon said, "The Lord wants you to have a new home." What does a "new home" built on biblical principles look like practically? How is it different from the world's approach?
3. **Christian Duty:** The sermon emphasized that these commands are part of our "Christian duty," not just good marriage advice. How does viewing these roles as worship to God change your perspective?

For Married Couples (or Those Considering Marriage):

4. **Submission Discussion:** The sermon spent considerable time on wives submitting to their husbands "as it is fit in the Lord."
 - o Wives: What makes this command challenging? What does willing, voluntary submission look like practically?
 - o Husbands: How does understanding the weight of what God asks of your wife change how you lead?
5. **Love Without Bitterness:** Why do you think the Holy Spirit specifically warned husbands not to be bitter? What causes bitterness in marriage, and how can husbands actively combat it?
6. **Team Approach:** The sermon said marriage is a "team" where you help each other obey the Bible. How can couples practically help each other fulfill their biblical roles without keeping score or manipulating?
7. **Before Marriage:** For singles, the sermon warned about choosing a spouse carefully. What should you look for in a potential spouse based on today's message?

For Parents:

8. **Children's Obedience:** The command for children to obey "in all things" is comprehensive. How do you help children understand this is worship to God, not just pleasing parents?
9. **Age and Obedience:** How does obedience work out differently for a 3-year-old versus a teenager? When does obedience transition to honor as children become adults?
10. **Fathers' Challenge:** The specific command to fathers is not to provoke children to anger. What are some ways fathers (or parents) unintentionally discourage their children? How can you create a safe, encouraging environment?

For Everyone:

11. **The Flesh vs. The Spirit:** The sermon acknowledged we all have sinful flesh and will fail at these commands. How do we balance high standards with grace when we (or our family members) fall short?
 12. **Creating Peace:** If everyone in a home followed these biblical commands, what would change? What would peace and unity look like practically?
-

Key Takeaways

- ✓ These are not marriage options to be considered—they are commands to be obeyed.
 - ✓ Your home is the first visible place the new man in Christ must operate.
 - ✓ Submission (for wives) is voluntary, based on God's authority and order, not on whether the husband deserves it.
 - ✓ Love (for husbands) must be sacrificial and unconditional, modeled after Christ's love for the church.
 - ✓ Children's obedience in all things is well-pleasing to the Lord—it is worship.
 - ✓ Fathers must lead without crushing their children's spirits—balance correction with encouragement.
 - ✓ When we obey these commands, we create a home that glorifies God and reaches the world for Christ.
-

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

For Wives:

- Identify one specific area where you can willingly support your husband's leadership this week
- Pray daily for your husband's responsibilities and leadership
- Speak words of encouragement about his leadership (even if imperfect)

Colossians – Week 11 – A New Home – Bible Study Helps

For Husbands:

- Ask your wife: "How can I better love and care for you this week?"
- Identify one area where you've been harsh or bitter and apologize
- Do one sacrificial act of service for your wife without being asked

For Children (discuss with parents, if needed):

- Practice obeying quickly and cheerfully this week
- Understand that obedience to parents is worship to God
- Thank your parents for their leadership and care

For Parents:

- Spend individual time with each child this week
- Balance any correction with specific praise and encouragement
- Ask forgiveness if you've been harsh or discouraging

For Singles:

- Pray for your future spouse (if marriage is your desire)
- Evaluate what you're looking for in a spouse—is spiritual maturity at the top?
- Work on becoming the person described in this passage

Accountability Questions:

- What specific step will you take this week to create a "new home"?
- Who will you ask to hold you accountable?
- What obstacles do you anticipate, and how will you overcome them?

Closing Reflection

Read together: Colossians 3:17 *"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."*

Final Question: If Jesus physically walked through your home this week, what would He see? What would you want Him to see?

Closing Prayer

Pray together for:

- Surrender to God's design for your home
 - Strength to obey these commands even when it's difficult
 - Grace for family members who are struggling
 - Homes that glorify God and reach the world for Christ
 - Wisdom for singles in choosing future spouses
-

For Further Study

- Read Ephesians 5:22-33 and compare with Colossians 3:18-21
 - Study the life of Sarah (Genesis 12-23) as an example for wives
 - Examine Christ's relationship with the church as the model for marriage
 - Study Proverbs 31 for wisdom on godly character
-

Remember: "We don't do this because it's a good thing to do. We do this because it's our Christian obligation to the Lord Jesus Christ."

5-Day Bible Reading Plan: Building a New Home in Christ

Day 1: The Foundation of a Christ-Centered Home

Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

Devotional:

Before God can give you a new home, He must give you a new heart. Paul reminds us that we are "risen with Christ"—fundamentally transformed from the inside out. The old man with his anger, bitterness, and selfish ambition has been crucified. Now Christ Himself lives within you.

This is not about trying harder to be a better person. The world doesn't need to see a better you; they need to see Christ in you. As you "put off" the old patterns and "put on" the new nature, you're not simply improving your behavior—you're allowing Jesus to live through you.

Before you can transform your home, surrender fully to the One who has already transformed you. Let Christ be your life today, not just a part of it.

Day 2: Wives—The High Calling of Graceful Submission

Reading: Ephesians 5:22-24; 1 Peter 3:1-6

Devotional:

Submission is not about inferiority; it's about divine order and trust. God calls wives to voluntarily place themselves under their husband's leadership "as unto the Lord"—not because husbands deserve it, but because this reflects Christ's relationship with His church.

This is one of Scripture's most challenging commands because it requires supernatural grace. Sarah's example shows us that submission doesn't mean perfection, but a pattern of trust in God's design. When you submit to your husband as it is "fit in the Lord," you're actually trusting and worshiping God.

Your meek and quiet spirit is "in the sight of God of great price." This doesn't mean silence, but strength under control—a peaceful confidence that trusts God's order even when circumstances are difficult. Today, ask God for grace to embrace this high calling.

Day 3: Husbands—Love Like Christ Loved

Reading: Ephesians 5:25-33; Colossians 3:19

Devotional:

Husbands, your calling is staggering: love your wife as Christ loved the church. Jesus didn't love the church because she deserved it—He gave Himself sacrificially while we were still sinners. This is your model.

"Be not bitter" reveals that men naturally become harsh, frustrated, and irritated. But God's command stands regardless of whether your wife "deserves" your love today. You must lead with servant-hearted sacrifice, dwelling with her "according to knowledge," understanding her needs, fears, and dreams.

When you realize what God asks of your wife—to submit to your leadership—it should humble you deeply. She needs you to be like Jesus: patient, kind, self-denying, and focused on her good. Your home's spiritual temperature rises and falls with your leadership. Today, ask God to give you Christ's heart for your bride.

Day 4: Children—Worship Through Obedience

Reading: Colossians 3:20; Ephesians 6:1-3

Devotional:

Children, did you know your obedience is worship? When you obey your parents "in all things," Scripture says this is "well pleasing unto the Lord." Taking out the trash with a good attitude glorifies God. Helping around the house honors Christ.

This isn't about your parents being perfect—it's about God's authority structure. You're not worshiping your parents; you're worshiping God by respecting the leaders He placed in your life. This obedience includes your tone, attitude, and heart, not just external compliance.

The scope is comprehensive: "in all things" (within biblical boundaries). This is your Christian duty, your primary way of serving Jesus right now. Peer pressure, media influence, and your own desires will challenge this, but God promises blessing to those who honor their parents. Today, choose to please God through cheerful obedience.

Day 5: Fathers—Lead Without Breaking

Reading: Colossians 3:21; Ephesians 6:4

Devotional:

Fathers, your words have power to build up or destroy. God's warning is clear: "Provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." Harsh criticism, inconsistency, unrealistic expectations, and public shame can break a child's spirit.

You set the spiritual tone of your home. Like God the Father, show compassion, balance correction with praise, and discipline in love with clear explanation. Your children need to see Jesus in you—patient, encouraging, present, and purposeful.

Being a father is a high calling that requires intentionality. Spend time with each child. Show them Christ through your example. Create a safe environment where they can grow toward God rather than away from Him.

The father-child relationship mirrors God's relationship with His people. When you lead well, you give your children a glimpse of their Heavenly Father's love. Today, ask God to help you lift your children toward Him with grace and truth.