

Sermon Outline for 05.20.18

The Family: The Foundational Institution of Human Society

"Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."

Colossians 3:18-21

On Pentecost Sunday:

The New City Catechism

Q. 36 What do we believe about the Holy Spirit?

A. That he is God, coeternal with the Father and the Son, and that God grants him irrevocably to all who believe.

Q. 37 How does the Holy Spirit help us?

A. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, comforts us, guides us, gives us spiritual gifts and the desire to obey God; and he enables us to pray and to understand God's Word.

"God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents."

Baptist Faith and Message (2000) Article XVIII. The Family

"The biblical vision of manhood and womanhood is a deeply satisfying gift of grace from a loving God who has the best interests of his creatures at heart. The vision is not onerous or oppressive. It conforms to who we are by God's good design."

Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood

"WE AFFIRM that divinely ordained differences between male and female reflect God's original creation design and are meant for human good and human flourishing. WE DENY that such differences are a result of the Fall or are a tragedy to be overcome."

Nashville Statement, Article 4

Submission is a voluntary yielding ordained by God which calls forth His blessing/empowerment.

Submission in marriage:

1. Does not imply inferiority but moves to the goal of marital completeness. (Genesis 2:18-22)
2. Is the disposition to honor/affirm/respect the husband as a servant leader. (Ephesians 5:33)
3. Is a reflection of obedience to Christ. (Colossians 3:18 and Ephesians 5:22)
4. Is a statement of the wife's longing for the husband to reach his full potential as a man of God.

Self-test for the "Boaz" type man:

1. I praise/cherish/affectionately care for my wife. (1-5)

2. I am a pacesetter in godliness. (1 Timothy 4:15-16 and 2 Peter 3:18) (1-5)
3. I protect my wife and family physically and from the "tumbleweed culture". (Psalm 1:3-4) (1-5)
4. I plead for her/their welfare and growth in the kingdom of God. (1-5)

Self-test for the godly women:

1. I show an attitude that honors/respects my husband. (1-5)
2. I understand that the husband is the servant leader and defer to him in decisions which are not defined in scripture or detrimental to others. (1-5)
3. I pray for my husband to reach his full stature in Christ and use words to bless him (especially in public). (1-5)
4. I know that graciously yielding to another is "fitting in the Lord" in numerous circumstances (mutually in relationships, elders, government, home). Therefore, this commitment calls for the blessings of God. (1 Peter 5:5-7) (1-5)

Questions for Discussion:

1. How is Colossians 3:11, 18-21 a gloriously radical departure from the culture of the recipients?
2. How do we guard against the "zeitgeist" of this "tumbleweed culture"?
3. What do we mean when we say believers should "graciously submit" in various situations ordained by God?