

***The Supremacy of Jesus Christ--Accept No Substitutes  
for a Life of Faith in Him***

(Sermons Series on the Book of Colossians)

***Message 10:***

***Do You Have A Christ-honoring Marriage?***

***Colossians 3:17-18***

God cares about your home. He cares about your marriage. God wants it to work, because He designed it to work.

Today, we will see similarities with instructions in Ephesians, and there is a reason why. Colossians and Ephesians are really twin documents in some ways. It is believed that as the Apostle Paul put down his pen from writing Colossians, he then dipped his pen in ink and started writing Ephesians. Tychicus is charged with delivering both letters to the recipients. Philemon was also written at this time.

Let me give what I hope will be a helpful word about these verses to set the table before we dig in. I believe that what this passages communicates is the Complementarian view of men and women (complementarian with an “e”, not complimentary with an “i”). In our Baptist Faith and Message 2000 statement, which is the doctrinal statement of the SBC, the Complementarian view is advocated.

Now, what is meant by those terms? Put simply, the Complementarian view states that men and women have different but complementary roles. The phrase that is also used is “Ontologically equal, functionally different.” In other words, men and women are equal in creation, essence, and value. However, while being equal, we have different roles and functions in marriage, in the home, and in the church. For some reason, God has assigned to the man the place of headship in the home and in the church. Some try to discount this and say it was only a first century cultural thing. But, I do not personally believe this is an accurate assessment. For example, in *1 Timothy 2:11-14*, Paul bases his comments concerning men and women’s roles in the church on the created order, not on culture. The created order transcends *all* cultures. Why God did this may remain somewhat of a mystery until we get to heaven (for now, we see in a mirror dimly as *1 Cor. 13* points out), but we see that God created Adam and then Eve to be his helpmate, complementary to him. In fact, they completed one another. Again, equal in creation (both created in the Imago Dei, the Image of God), but with different roles and functions.

Egalitarians disagree with this. They would say “there are to be equal roles and functions.” Egalitarians will often take a verse that has to do with salvation, *Galatians 3:28*, where Paul says “there is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave or free, male or female,” and they will apply that verse to roles and functions. Complementarians would respond, “Obviously pertaining to salvation there is neither Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female.” No one argues that. But you cannot take a verse that is speaking of salvation and apply it to roles and functions inside the church and the home. Furthermore, we have biblical passages like the one before us today that clearly teach different roles. Also, *1 Timothy 3* says that pastors and deacons are to be “one woman men,” and every adjective used to describe his qualifications are in the masculine. Thus,

Complementarians would point out that these texts on different roles and functions have to be accepted and dealt with as a part of the Canon of Scripture.

Let it be said clearly that if someone uses the complementarian view to promote any kind of male chauvinism, then they have completely misused the Bible and have also misunderstood the complementarian view. I say this emphatically, for as we will see, if anything the complementarian view requires a higher level of responsibility and accountability to the man. Everything the man does is to be carried out with Christ's love and a spirit of servanthood!

As we turn to our passage, we see that a Christian's total life is to be under the Lordship of Christ. The Christian home is to be different. (Since the days of the Protestant Reformation, the reformer Martin Luther referred to this passage and others like it as the "Haustafeln," the "household table.")

## 1. INSTRUCTIONS TO WIVES

V. 18

## 2. INSTRUCTION TO HUSBANDS

V. 19

While the instruction to the wife would have been readily understood and considered common, this particular instruction to the husbands would not have been. Dr. Douglas Moo, in his commentary on Colossians, makes the statement that there is no instruction from the ancient world outside of the Bible that tells husbands to love their wives. This was a new and revolutionary idea.

**Conclusion:** All of what we have spoken of today is a reversal of the curse after the Fall. Previous to the Fall, the marriage relationship was intimate as well as complimentary and beneficial to the building of a home. Then came the Fall. God placed a curse on the serpent, a curse on the woman, and a curse on the man. Consider for a moment what God said to Eve. Eve was going to desire her husband's place of leadership in the home, but Adam was not going to let her have it. He would rule over her. Hence, what begins is the "battle of the sexes."

What Paul is presenting here is a reversal of the curse. Through Christ, Christian couples are able to go back to God's original blueprint for marriage, where marriage is a loving and complementary relationship, instead of being a tug-of-war.

I want to invite you to follow the ABC'S of a good marriage:

**A** - acknowledge Christ as Lord of your home

**B** - be blind to others faults. (Log/speck)

**C** - call on the Lord in prayer to give you strength to do what He has called on you to do.