

## Family Guidance (3/27/22)

**Main Verses:** Colossians 3:18-21

**Key Verse:** Colossians 3:18-21

**'Takeaway':** Through Jesus, God not only guides us to his heavenly family, but also wants to guide every earthly family.

**Getting Started:** Think about how you talked to your mom & dad before you came this morning? How did you treat them?



**READ** the main verses (or have older kids help read).

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- What do these verses tell us about the order Paul believes should be present in homes? (Wives, submit to husbands; husbands, love & do not be harsh; children, obey parents; fathers, do not provoke)
- What is Paul's main focus in all of these instructions? (as is fitting in the Lord, pleases the Lord)

Elementary:

- Why does Paul use the word submit in his instruction to wives instead of obey?
- Why do the fathers have more specific instructions, designed to help them in their relationships with their wives & children? What are those instructions?
- What is the main focus in all these verses? (as is fitting in the Lord, pleases the Lord)

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses:

Toddler/PreK:

- We need to live in a way that is pleasing to God.
- God's design is for families to be good & and healthy (he wants families to flourish).
- Children should obey their parents. (Fifth Commandment Exodus 20:12).
- Husbands are the leaders of the home; wives should support & submit to their leadership.
- Husbands should love their wives as Jesus loves the church (Ephesians 5:25), & fathers should encourage their children. This means they should not mistreat them or be unkind to them.

Elementary:

- In Roman households wives were told to "obey" their husbands; here, Paul enjoins them to submit to their husbands based on his conviction that men have a God-given leadership role in the home. Most importantly, he instructs them to live as is fitting in the Lord, not to follow prevailing cultural expectations of that time.
- God's design is for families to be good and healthy (he wants families to flourish).
- Children are to obey their parents—this is the fifth commandment (Exodus 20:12).
- Loving & Christlike husbands & fathers have a sober role as leaders. They are not to mistreat or be harsh with their wives & children, but are instead to love their wives as Christ loves the church (Ephesians 5:25) & are to encourage their children, not discourage them.
- In rooting his instructions in "the Lord" Paul stresses the importance of evaluating everything in light of Christ & his teaching.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God, thanking him for being a good, good Father. Thank him for making families who take care of us. Ask him to help you to obey your parents & to grow in your knowledge of him.

(Elementary) Talk to God, thanking him for being a good, good Father. Thank him for helping us to know how we are to live in light of relationships in families. Ask him to help your parents & other leaders in your life to follow him & to teach you more about him. And ask him to help you to obey your parents & to grow in your knowledge of him every day.