

The Family Unit

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Let's go back in time for a moment. Let's go back when we used to watch family shows on TV. Let's go back to the black and white shows. Maybe you watch the Donna Reed Show or Father Knows Best or maybe you watched Leave It to Beaver. Maybe it was My Three Sons or Make Room for Daddy (Danny Thomas Show) or maybe the Dick Van Dyke Show. One of the things most of them had in common was the parents was always dressed up. Mom would do house cleaning in heels and a dress. The father wore a suit or always had a dress shirt on. Everybody was well groomed. Plus, you didn't hear bad words, and the show usually had a good moral lesson to be learned. What's happened to the family unit of today? Family TV today is totally different from what it was during the 50's and 60's. At one of the parks last Saturday, I saw a family having their outing on private property that borders the park. I told the family they couldn't be on the private property without permission. Their 10-year-old son blurted out several cuss words that would have made a sailor blush. The parents weren't happy with me either. That wouldn't have happened on the Donna Reed Show or Leave it to Beaver Show. You see, there is a war going on against the family unit. Part of the issue is the Church has not done a very good job in fighting against this culture's push against the family. What do I mean by this? We see in many public schools today that try to teach young children about how its ok to be whatever you want to be. You can be homosexual or you can pick any type of gender you want. You can be an ambonec gender – the person identifies themselves as both man and woman and yet does not belong to either. How about anogender where the gender identity fades in and out in intensity but always comes back to the same gendered feeling. You can be part human and part animal and the list can go on and on. Why is this garage being taught in our schools today? We must look at this because the family unit is important to God and if it's important to God, it should be important to us. We're told this in 1 Timothy 5: 8, "But those who won't care for their own relatives, especially those living in the same household,

have denied what we believe. Such people are worse than unbelievers. (NLT). Paul was talking about widowers before this piece of Scripture, but this is a general view of how a family should run – caring for one another. There is other Scripture that we will be looking at shortly that supports the view that the family unit is important to God. Why is there such a push for the break up of the family? I think many people don't realize there is a push to break up the family, but there is. We have seen a great push for Socialism reform throughout our nation. We've seen the push within the Church as well here in America and it's called Christian Socialism or Religious Socialism. We must take these false teachings seriously because they do not have a favorable view of the traditional family unit. Socialism is a branch of Marxism which Communism is a branch of as well. Socialism can take on different forms depending on the times and culture. Karl Marx saw the family as an obstacle to the creation of the "new man" in a communist party or for the state. Plus, the traditional nuclear family was viewed by Marx as performing a function for the capitalist system rather than for the society as a whole. Socialism does not like the middle class because of their usual support for capitalism. They (Socialists) believe the state knows what is best for you. So, to help people become more dependent upon the state, the traditional family must change to a more individual unit where the individual becomes focused on serving the state. What breaks up a family more than a school teaching children to not trust their parents or that they can make their own decisions with the help of the school. Christian Socialism has embraced this teaching as well and is ok with children being taught it's ok to pick what gender they want and they don't have to listen to their parents and some parents are ok with this. This brings conflict within a family. Satan is using this false teaching to break up the family and he has done a very good job at doing it. We can say the same with divorce and other issues that is destroying the family of today. How should we look upon the family today.? We must view the family as God views family. You know, Paul had to address the family issue as well during his day. Let's take a look at what Paul says as we continue with Paul's letter to the Colossians.

Let's turn to Colossian 3: 18 – 4:1 where we read this, ¹⁸ Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

²⁰ Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

²² Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for^[a] you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

Christian Graces; Final Greetings

4 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. (www.biblegateway.com)

Here we have Paul addressing the Colossian Church on the family unit. It is a short piece that goes straight to the point. Paul tells the wives to submit to their husband, but at the same time, husbands are to love their wives. The father was the head of the family and he was the example of the family or he should have been. Now, we have to take a closer look here. The men may like verse 18 about wives should submit to their husbands, but Paul gives husbands a higher command. Husbands are to love their wives. The Greek term Paul uses for love is “agapate” which is the verb form of agape (AI). This is a willful, sacrificial, and unconditional love, distinct from mere emotional affection. This is from Christ love, not human love. This is Paul shaking up the cultural of the males because women were usually treated harshly in this time period. The husband is to love his wife with unconditional love that was sacrificial. The same type of love that Jesus had shown on the cross for us. The wife then should submit to her husband because of this love. The Greek term for submit was also used to describe how believers are to follow God. It means a voluntary, respectful, and ordered cooperation rather than blind obedience or forced servitude (AI). In other words, for a husband to have a wife to submit to him in respect, he must love her through the love of Christ. Paul tells the family in Ephesians 5: 21, “You will submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. (NLT)” If you love and respect Jesus, you’ll do the same with the family through Christ. I’m not saying

everything will be perfect. Parents do the best they can for their children, but when children become adults, they make their own choices. Sometimes, those choices are not good. However, we still love them with Christ love with the help of the Holy Spirit. The love Paul talks about in Colossians – that unconditional love that is sacrificial. This way, if they fall under conviction and ask for your forgiveness, you'll forgive them as Jesus would. Again, this is through the Holy Spirit. I say this because if we rely on our human nature, we'll not be able to love them unconditionally. So, we love our family out of reverence for Christ. Our culture doesn't want us to do that. This is why there is such a push for embracing abortion for unwanted babies, for confusing children about their gender and etc... This helps to break up the family. Parents must get back to the basic teaching of praying to Jesus for help in getting the whole family covered in His love.

We may ask how far do we need to go in this love thing for the family. Paul gives this example in Ephesians 5: 25-33, “²⁵ For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.^[a] ²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. ²⁹ No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. ³⁰ And we are members of his body.

³¹ As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.”^[b] ³² This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. ³³ So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. (www.biblegateway.com)” We love our family as Jesus loved the Church. Jesus died for His Church. The American family of today needs Jesus' love mixed through their relationship with each other. That is the only way the family can survive. Paul shows us how important it is to God by talking about when a man leaves his parents and is joined with his wife which Paul says is a great mystery. There are only two genders mentioned here. Christian Socialism teaches any gender can live together and you can have as many partners as you want and its ok. Paul says a man and a woman are united into one. This is what the Lord wants. The Church today must go back to what the Bible says about the family.

The family was God's creation. Always remember that. Satan and those who follow Satan's teaching want to destroy God's way which is the right way.

Why do we want to do God's way for the family? Again, we go back to Ephesians 5: 21, "out of reverence for Christ". Remember, all the commands and laws God has given us branch out from this one Great Command, "The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these – Mark 12: 29-31. (NLT)" If you don't love your family with Jesus' love, then you have a love issue with God. We can't love our family correctly without allowing the Holy Spirit to help us to love the Lord correctly – love Him with everything we have. Paul didn't want the culture to tell the Church how a family should be done. Paul wanted the Church to focus on what God wants from the family. Paul even touched on the relationship between slave and master as well, which we didn't touch on today. When we don't follow God's plan for the family, there is breakup of the family. Let's get back to allowing the Lord to help our families to stick together through His love. It's not always easy, but it's the only way. Don't let our society tell you how a family should be structured or lived. Remember, the Lord our God is the one and only Lord. He knows what is best for the family for He created it.

NLT Life Application Study Bible. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.: Wheaton, 1996