



**fellowship**  
Love God. Love People. Develop Disciples.

Today we discover the 3rd practice of the person who wants to serve God's purpose with The DASH - **SERVING FAMILY**.

Earlier in this writing Paul wrote that the racial & social distinctions (v.11-17) should NOT divide followers of Jesus. Instead **Christ is in all** (v.11) making us **one body** (v.15).

### **2 important observations:**

1. **Paul is addressing what is expected in a Christian household** - where both husband and wife are followers of Jesus.
  - If you are married to an unbeliever, you need to read 1 Cor. 7:12-16.
  - For those who are NOT married, you should only consider marrying a believer (1 Cor. 7:39).
2. **Ancient, non-Christian household codes gave directions only to wives, children, & servants.**<sup>1</sup> Men were large and in charge. So what would have struck the ancient person hearing the text are the limitations & directions given to the head of the household.

### **Serving Family**

#### **Colossians 3:18-21** (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

**FAMILIES WHO SERVE  
REVEAL  
GOD WHO SAVES**

What if an unbeliever lived with your family for a week? What would he/her see & hear? Would he see a family who says one thing & lives another? OR...would he see a SERVING FAMILY?

### **Wives**

#### **Colossians 3:18** (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> **Wives**, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

**Submit:** place yourself under the leadership of another. The Greek term translated **submit** (*hypotassō*) is the same verb used of:

- **Jesus** submitting to his Joseph & Mary (Lk. 2:51) & God the Father (1 Cor. 15:28)

<sup>1</sup> Ben Witherington III, *The Letters to Philemon, the Colossians, and the Ephesians: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on the Captivity Epistles* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007), 187.

- **Believers** are to submit to one another (Eph. 5:21) - including both husband & wife. Believers are to submit to authorities (Titus 3:1) and church leaders (Heb. 13:17). And of course, believers are to submit to God (James 4:7).

So wives, you are to **submit to your husbands** because it **is fitting in the Lord** - this is the Lord's plan & it pleases Him. If you refuse to submit to your Christian husband, you refuse to submit the Lord.

What if you are married to a man who doesn't follow Jesus?

### 1 Peter 3:1-2 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, <sup>2</sup> when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

The wife doesn't influence the ungodly husband by nagging him, but by serving the Lord & serving him. In this way, the wife who serves reveals the God who saves.

## Husbands

### Colossians 3:19 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup> **Husbands**, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

**Husband**, you must **love your wife**. Love is more than a fuzzy feeling. The Greek word *agapaō* (love) is often used of the sacrificial, self-giving love that Jesus modeled.

**Don't be harsh** towards her. Your talk & your touch should be tender & kind. You are to protect her, not mistreat her. Peter echoes these words with a warning attached:

### 1 Peter 3:7 ESV

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an **understanding way, showing honor to the woman** as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so **that your prayers may not be hindered**.

Not **showing honor to the woman**? **Your prayers** will be **hindered**. Has God been answering you lately?

☀ **Denny Burk** was interviewed by Greg Koukl<sup>2</sup>

*"Our marriages are supposed to be saying something about the gospel...When a husband fails to love his wife; when a wife fails to follow the leadership of her husband; when a marriage breaks apart in divorce, we are actually saying something blasphemous about the Gospel, because marriages are supposed to be these little dramas of redemption put on display for the world."*

**BIG TRUTH: Families who serve reveal God who saves.**

🕒 There are some husbands & wives that need to ask each other for forgiveness TODAY. You need to go home, shut the door, confess your selfishness, & ask for forgiveness.

<sup>2</sup> STR podcast 'Denny Burk - The Meaning of Sex'

## Children

**Colossians 3:20** (ESV)

<sup>20</sup> **Children**, obey your parents in everything, for **this pleases the Lord**.

Do you WANT to **please the Lord**? One of the primary ways you can demonstrate your desire to please Him, is to obey the parents he has put in your life.

## Parents

<sup>21</sup> **Fathers**, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged

This Greek term (*pateres*) certainly means **fathers** & is sometimes used of both parents. **Parents**, we are to ENCOURAGE their lives, not discourage them.

Paul echoes the same words to the Ephesians, with a clarifying reason.

**Ephesians 6:4** (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> **Fathers**, do not provoke your children to anger, but **bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord**.

Parents, have you made time to look your child in the face...and ENCOURAGE him/her? What are you doing to help them grow into mature followers of Jesus?

**Wives** submit to husbands. **Husbands** show sacrificial love to wives.

**Children**, obey your parents. **Parents**, encourage your kids to walk with Jesus!

**BIG TRUTH: Families who serve reveal God who saves.**

## Do you REALLY want your DASH to count?



**1. Eat, talk, play, & pray with your family.** Turn off the TV. Put down the phones and tablets. Talk during your meal. Take time to play a fun game like 'heads up'. Then talk about what you are learning and share prayer needs. Our church has been praying for little Emory (brain tumor) & Nancy Varn.

**2. Take your spouse out.** Invest in each other without the kids/grandkids. Also, consider joining us on **Feb. 19-20 for Marriage Conference** here called 'Mingling of Souls' (free childcare).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These open-ended questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your Family, Friends, or Small Group.

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1. **Read Col. 3:18-21.** Share about a family you have watched live this out. How has their example impacted you? What most encourages or challenges you from this passage?
2. Growing up, did your family model vv.18-21? Explain how this was so. If not, what was missing? What would your children say if they were asked this question about your home?
3. **Quote by Denny Burk:** *"Our marriages are supposed to be saying something about the gospel...When a husband fails to love his wife; when a wife fails to follow the leadership of her husband; when a marriage breaks apart in divorce, we are actually saying something blasphemous about the Gospel, because marriages are supposed to be these little dramas of redemption put on display for the world."* **What are your thoughts about those statements?**
4. **FEET2FAITH CHALLENGES.**
  - **Eat, talk, play, & pray with your family.** What distractions will you avoid? What game will you play? Which night (at least 1) will you schedule this for this week?
  - **Take your spouse out.** When is the last time you went out together, without kids? When & where will you plan to go? What keeps you from doing this consistently & how can WE help? (e.g. watching kids)
5. Share prayer thanks & needs. Then pray for one another.