



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: A Firm Foundation

Date: July 28, 2024

Scripture Text: Colossians 3:18-21

Notes:

Chapter 3 of Colossians focuses on the practical application of what the Christian life looks like. [Col. 3:1-4](#) describe where the Christian's focus should be, "on the things above" and "not on the things that are on the earth". The things above relate to eternal things, and the things of earth, temporary and temporal. In [3:12-14](#) the Apostle Paul gives us literal examples of what it looks like to focus on the things above, of which love being the glue that holds God's people together in unity. Today's passage takes this another step further, breaking down what a heavenly focus in the home looks like. We each have a role to play in the home. God designed and defined marriage and family. When each member plays their role, home can be an enjoyable place to be. Godly families can make a major impact on a culture which is experiencing the struggles that come when God's family design is not followed. Let's look at four keys to a *Heavenly Home*.

I. Wives Be Submissive (Colossians 3:18)

As part of God's design for the family, the wife is called to submit to her husband. This submission is not subservience but voluntary subordination. This is based on the wife's relationship with Christ and her role within the family ("as is fitting in the Lord") rather than on a false notion of inferiority. The husband is not called to enforce this command, but the wife is called to voluntarily submit.

- Describe what it means for a wife to submit to her husband.
- Why might a wife's submission be seen as a demeaning role for the wife to play in the home?
- How is there honor for a wife to submit to her husband?
- How is a wife's submission to her husband actually submission to God?
- If you are a wife, what are areas in which you struggle to submit to your husband?
 - What are ways you can better submit to your husband?

II. Husbands Be Loving (Colossians 3:19)

As part of God's design for the family, husbands are called to love their wives. 'Love' refers to selfless sacrificial concern and care for the welfare of the other person ([Eph 5:25-29](#)). 'Bitterness' pertains to harsh treatment and could be translated as "to cause bitter feelings." If the wife feels loved and the husband respected, then each are getting their *itch scratched* and the marriage is more apt to flourish.



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Notes:

- Describe what it looks like for a husband to love his wife.
- How can a husband lead his wife through loving her?
- How can a husband's love for his wife foster her respect for him?
- If you are a husband, what are areas you struggle with to love your wife?
 - What are ways you can better show love to your wife?
- How can a husband and wife fulfilling their roles in the family be complementary, with both growing in their relationship with Jesus?

III. Children Be Obedient (Colossians 3:20)

As part of God's design for the family, children are to obey their parents in all things. Obedience to parents can be a great training ground for obedience to God. As children grow into adulthood, that obedience transitions to honor and respect. Both are valuable to be applied to our Heavenly Father as well.

- What is the parent's role in training children to be obedient?
- How would you explain to a child why it's important for them to obey?
- How can your example of obeying God be an example for your children?
 - Is it a good example?

IV. Parent Be Equippers (Colossians 3:21)

Parents need to invest in their children so they can be equipped to serve Jesus. There are areas where parents can frustrate their children like when their expectations are not reasonable, they are inconsistent with discipline/demands, or if they are not on the same page (united). Loving, consistent direction and discipline will help a child stay on course. The relationship a parent, especially a father, has with a child will be reflective of a relationship the child may one day have with God. If dad is aloof or distant, the child may view God similarly. If dad is loving and supportive, the child's view of God may be likewise. Parents should be positive reflections of Jesus to their children.

- Describe your relationship with your parents.
- What can you learn from your relationship with your parents (good or bad) that you can apply to parenting your children.
- How can a parent's daily walk with God impact their children?
- As a parent (or grandparent) what is an area you can focus on to help your children (or grandchildren) see Jesus?