

Message Notes

Heaven & the Home
Heaven Series, part 7
Colossians 3:1-21
May 8, 2005

Message Outline

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I. The POWER of a Christ-Centered, Heaven-Focused Family

- A. A 24/7/365/life-long calling.
- B. Part of God's plan to bless us.
- C. Part of God's plan to change us.
- D. Part of God's plan to change the world.
- E. Part of God's plan to glorify Himself.

II. The PRACTICES of a Christ-Centered, Heaven-Focused Family

- 1. Connecting (Col. 3:12-14, 18-19)
- 2. Modeling (Col. 3:5-10)
- 3. Teaching (Col. 3:16)
- 4. Correcting (Col. 3:20-21)
- 5. Abiding (Col. 3:15)

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Colossians 3:1-21 again. Is Paul talking to individuals, to the church, to families or to all three groups? How can you tell? Which verses did the phrase “Christ-centered, heaven-focused family” come from? What does it mean? What do these types of families look like?
2. What do we learn about CONNECTING in Col. 3:12-14?
3. Look closely at v. 18 and 19 and read the parallel and fuller passage in Ephesians 5:22-33. In what role are wives to emulate Jesus Christ in marriage? Explain how this is a role of “function” and not “identity” in the case of Christ and wives.
4. In what role are husbands to emulate Jesus Christ in marriage? Explain how this is a role of “function” and not “identity in the case of husbands? What form does this leadership take? What’s the difference between “loving leadership” and “lording leadership”?
5. What do we learn about MODELING in Col. 3:5-10 and especially v. 10? Why does our character count in parenting?
6. What do we learn about CORRECTING in Col. 3:20-21 and in Ephesians 6:4? Who is supposed to take the lead in this role? How can a father exasperate his children? What is the relationship between CORRECTING and CONNECTING?

Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What was the most encouraging or challenging thing about our message/text this week? How was this message/text applicable for singles? For young marrieds? For young families? For grandparents? For the whole church?
2. How is the family part of God’s plan to bless us? To change us? To change the world? To glorify himself? Do “Christ-centered, heaven-focused families” just happen automatically or by accident? How is the family a 24/7/365/life-long calling?
3. Looking at the five practices of Biblical families, share about your own family of origin. Which practices happened? Which were missing? Why do we call these “practices”?
4. How are you trying to apply these “practices” in your current family setting or in your church family relationships? As a parent/grandparent/child/friend? Which is the toughest? Which is the most natural? Which is the easiest to neglect?
5. What is the practice of “ABIDING” or letting the “peace of Christ rule in our hearts”? How do we teach one another to abide? Why is abiding absolutely necessary in the process of parenting?
6. What are two concrete and practical things, from what we have learned together, that you will purpose to apply in your family/church relationships?