

God's Design for the Family

Colossians 3:18-21

Introduction – The Gospel Comes Home

God's Design for the Christian Wife (v.18)

The Command:

"Wives, submit to your husbands..."

The Reason:

"...as is fitting in the Lord."

The Christian wife's submission is first an act of devotion to _____ before it is ever an act of devotion to her husband.

The Meaning:

Biblical submission is the joyful _____ and willing _____ of God's order for the family.

The Great Lie of Our Age to Women:

"You will _____ by rejecting God's design for womanhood."

A woman becomes the wife God intends her to be by joyfully embracing the _____. He designed for her.

God's Design for the Christian Husband (v.19)

The Command:

"Husbands, love your wives..."

Biblical love is the settled commitment to seek the _____ of another person.

The Warning:

"...and do not be harsh with them."

Leadership without love becomes _____.

The Great Lie of Our Age to Men:

"You can neglect your God-given responsibility without _____."

A man becomes the husband God intends him to be by eagerly embracing the _____ God has entrusted to him.

God's Design for Christian Children (v. 20)

The Command:

"Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."

Children live under the protection, provision, instruction, and authority of the home. God has entrusted parents with the responsibility of directing, disciplining, and preparing their children for life.

The Reason:

"... for this pleases the Lord."

Children, your obedience is ultimately an act of _____.

The Great Lie of Our Age to Children:

"You are the ultimate _____ over your own life."

A child becomes the adult God intends him to be through _____ to the parents God has given him.

God's Design for Christian Fathers (v. 21)

The Command:

"Fathers, do not provoke your children ..."

The word *provoke* means to stir up, exasperate, or embitter.

The Reason:

"... lest they become discouraged."

God's goal for our parenting is not simply outward conformity.

God calls fathers to _____ the hearts of their children.

The Great Lie of Our Age to Fathers:

"If you _____ for your children, you have fulfilled your responsibility to them."

A Christian father fulfills God's design by faithfully shepherding the hearts of his children with loving, consistent _____.

Conclusion – Will I _____ God's design?