

Study Notes --

From your perspective, how has family life in the United States changed through the years? How is it better? How is it worse?

Does our nostalgia for the past create a distorted lens as we consider family life in the 50s, 60s, etc.?

Thinking back to Sunday's message, what spoke to you, inspired you, encouraged you, challenged you, or confused you?

Unity in the church was an important issue for the Apostle Paul, so was unity in the family. Why do you believe unity was so important to him? How can we pursue unity in both our families and in the church without compromising core principles or tolerating overt sin?

Read **Colossians 3:18**, **Ephesians 5:22-24**, and **1 Peter 3:1**.
How might these verses be twisted or abused?

How do you believe this should look in a Christian home?

Does a wife's submission to her husband indicate her inferiority in any way?

Read **Colossians 3:19**, **Ephesians 5:25-33**, and **1 Peter 3:7**.
Does it sound like the husband gets off easy in these verses? Explain your response.

Since our culture has varied definitions of "love," where should we look to find an appropriate definition and example of love?

How do you believe this should look in a Christian home?

Read **Colossians 3:20** and **Ephesians 6:1-3**.
How might these verses be twisted or abused?

How do you believe this should look in a Christian home?

What is the danger of parents not expecting and working toward an obedient and respectful attitude from their children?

Read **Colossians 4:1** and **Philemon 8-22**.
Although we might have preferred that Paul denounce slavery, what does he do that ultimately undermines its legitimacy?

How might believers today work against the slavery that still exists?

GRACE NOTES

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Message: A New Family

Scripture: Colossians 3:18-4:1 (ESV)

18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

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

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

22 Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵ For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

1 Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

