

"A Family Affair-A Word to Husbands" – Colossians 3:19

Shall we turn this evening to Colossians chapter 3, verse 18. No matter where you go in the New Testament, the importance of the home is absolutely stated in the New Testament. You remember there in Luke chapter 8, where the man was demon possessed, and when the Lord got done with him he was sitting, clothed in his right mind. He came back to Christ and wanted to leave that country and to follow Jesus Christ. And it tells us in (Luke 8: 39), **"Return to your own house and tell them the great things that God has done."** The home is that sanctuary that God wants victory within our lives. And when the home falls apart, so does the nation, so does our country. Today we are living in a society that doesn't place a lot of respect upon the home. We find that too many people are going too many ways to make an impact. So we have a generation of very rebellious kids, much like we were rebellious in our days. Our parents were coming out of that war, and they were both working and didn't really have time for a lot of us. And so we got hung up into different things of the "hippies" and the "love in's" and all the different things. But even in the generation that I grew up in, as an adult, because of the business of ministry and the business of things, often times the home was neglected. Though I worked and Gayle was able to stay home, and we raised our children in the ways of the Lord, there are still things I look back and realize as a husband I could have done so much better. I don't know if my wife could have done anything better, but I will say there are things in my own heart that I wish that I had done different.

And so I want to speak to you guys about the importance of leadership within your life. Now like it or not, God made you a man, and because He made you a man, the government of God has been placed upon your life. He placed upon the woman's life that role of submission. We saw last week; that important area of her life that, **"she is to submit unto her husband as unto the Lord."** (Ephesians 5:22) So she is to look beyond and see Jesus Christ, and so her real answer in life is Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

We come now to that place in Colossians chapter 3 verse 13, where it says that, **“husbands love your wives, and be not embittered against them.”** In other words, don’t be bitter against them. And the reason why is that God placed early in life, in creation, that He made man first. So brothers, God made you first, and because of that, not in the sense of equality, because there is no separation between a man and a woman. We know that, according to Galatians. That when I look at my wife I see a Godly woman. I see a sister in Christ. I see my wife who is equal to me in position. But when it comes to the “government of God”, for some strange reason God has placed me over her life. And we know that most women would love to have that authority, and most guys would like to give it up. And most women, if they’re really honest, would love to have a man that is stronger than they are, to be able to lead them and guide them. But because the guys are not taking the lead, it’s difficult for women to submit today.

And I believe that as you look in the Bible, you find that the problem is in the home, because husbands are not “imitating Jesus Christ”. We’re not setting the example that God wants us to set. We’re not making decisions that God desires us to make. We’re not establishing the altar within our own homes. And we’re not keeping the commitments that we said we would make. And we’re definitely not making them the priority of our life. And when a woman knows that she’s not the priority, then her insecurity begins to explode. And she begins to react, because you have taken something away from her that God gave to her; the ability to submit. But when she sees no leadership, when she sees no Godliness within the home, when she now begins to see a compromise or complacency within the man’s life, when she sees a tired, exhausted husband that doesn’t have the strength to lead her in the things of Jesus Christ, then she begins to fulfill her life doing other things. So, even as I shared last week, that the only hope that a woman has of submitting herself to her husband, is she has to see Jesus Christ. The only hope that I have to lead my wife in the ways of Jesus Christ is to look beyond my wife and to see the Lord, lifted high and mighty. And to establish that authority within my life and my heart. And so the importance of providing is so important, and protecting, but even more than that, is giving Gayle something to follow. That tenderness, gentleness, not allowing the anger to dominate our home, not allowing the stress to overtake our lives, not allowing my life to not trust God. And through the

years she has always said one thing that has bothered her. She has always told me that "I want you to trust God". And I would tell her, "But you don't understand how difficult it is right now." And she would say, "It doesn't make a difference. Your life is to be lived before God, and if you're not trusting God, I'm dead in the water."

And so, the greatest problem the men of this church have is trusting God to be the strength of your life. To be able to lead your family in the ways of God, and be able to confront the situations, and to discipline the children. So men, we need to lift up our holy hands, and we need to take the God given responsibility of authority. And that's not to abuse it; but is to take the responsibility, that if your family goes astray it lies squarely on your shoulders. If your wife is out of control, it lays upon your shoulder. You see, if you are leading, she will follow. But if you are not leading, then she doesn't have that strength, she is a weaker vessel. Smarter than you probably, but weaker in other areas because she was first tempted. And because she was tempted, she was deceived. And because God made you men in creation to be first, He also places the responsibility of being organized in your own home, and (Joshua 24:15) said, **"As for me in my house, we will serve the Lord."** So it's not your wife's responsibility to get you to church, and it's not the children's responsibility to have you come to church. It is your responsibility as a man, as a priest, as the one who is the prophet of your own home, to bring your family into the house of worship, to lead your family in the ways of God, and to counsel your family in the things of God. And so if you're not looking to God, trusting God, believing in God, or you don't know God, you're dead in the water. But the moment she begins to see that work in your life, it will become just a wonderful thing.

And so if I was to ask the average husband, "Hey do you love your wife?" Well he would say "Of course I do, no doubt I do". But the problem is, according to Paul, do you love your wives the way that "Christ loved the church?" (Ephesians 5:25) And so the way that Christ loved the church is to be a sacrifice, to be able to die for her, regardless of what she's going through. And so he's not asking you to lead her if she's obedient to you. He's asking you to lead her, in spite of the situation that God has given to you. Much like God said to the woman to submit. And by

your submission you will win your husband to Christ. By your leadership, you're going to win your wife to Christ.

I heard this little story yesterday: "After fifty years, I've found you true and tried and true." It's a husband saying to his wife at the anniversary, "I've found you after fifty years, you were tried and true." She had a hard time hearing, so she said "Huh? What did you say?". And so he said with all of his heart, he said, "After fifty years, I have found you tried and true." She screamed at him, "After fifty years I'm tired of you, too!". Well, there you have it. What can I say, what can I say.

A survey resolving release of men's health in Britain suggests more than two thirds of fifteen hundred men questioned suffered from depression. Nearly half, they felt the stress and believed work ruled their lives, while almost thirty percent felt constantly exalted. Virtually none were as fit as they like, and nearly forty percent said they were overweight. More than half worried themselves sick about their looks with love handles, potbellies and hair loss on top of their heads. In short, the twenty first century man is fat, sad and bald. You know, but once again it's not about how you look, it's about who's inside of your life.

And so I want to take a look with you through the scriptures this evening, and we want to take a look at, really, God's requirement for the husband. If you're not married, you need to listen very carefully. If you're single and you're a gal, you need to buy the tape and listen to it a hundred times before you marry anybody. Because when you marry that blue eyed baby or whatever you're going to marry, you're stuck with this guy for the rest of your life. So I think we need to listen to what really God's going to say.

Well, first of all, we find in Genesis chapter 2, very simply, "the husband is to cleave to the wife." In (Genesis 2:18), **"And the Lord God said, it is not good that a man should be alone, I will make a helpmate for him."** So, it was God that instituted the marriage. It was God that understood that he was lonely. It was God that wanted to meet the very need of his life. Then, in chapter 2 verse 24, **"Therefore, (pointing back) shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave unto his wife and they shall become one flesh."**

And the word I want to draw to your attention is, husbands, number one: you need to learn to "cleave" to your wife. Now, the word in Hebrew is a very interesting word. It means "to be cemented together", "to be glued". It means to place contacts cemented upon your face, and contacts cemented upon her face, and wait thirty minutes and put you guys together. It means that there's no one else in your life except her. It means that you desire her, you love her and you adore her. That she becomes something that you love to see, and love to talk to, and love to be around. So the word means to cleave, to hold on tight to. It's a word that means to stick together, to glue together, and to cement together. And when you look today you realize that often times husbands lose that very quickly within a marriage.

I read this thing and it just cracked me up and I had to jot it down. It was published in the newspaper and it was entitled, it was in the Saturday Evening Post, "Seven Ages of Marriage". And it revealed the reactions of husbands to wives' colds during a seven year period. The first year of their marriage when she gets sick he says, "Sugar dumpling, I'm really worried about my baby girl. You've got a bad sniffle and there's no telling about the things that are going to cause strep throat going around. I'm putting you in the hospital this afternoon. The food's terrible, but I'll have everything all worked out. I'm going to bring you some food this afternoon, baby doll." Second year, "Listen darling, I don't like the sound of that cough. I called Doctor Miller and asked him to rush over here. Now you go to bed like a good little girl, and it will bless my heart and I will take care of you." That's pretty nice. Third year, "Maybe you'd better lie down, honey. Nothing like a little rest when you feel lousy. I'll bring you something to eat, have you got any canned soup?" Year four, "Now look dear, be sensible. After you have fed the kids, washed the dishes, finished the floor, you'd better lay down and take care of yourself." Year five, "Why don't you take a couple of aspirins honey?" Year six, "I wish you'd just gargle or something instead of sitting around all evening barking like a seal." I love this. Year seven, "For Pete's sake, stop sneezing you're going to get me sick." Husbands, "cleave" to your wives. "Get over it honey, we got things to do." "Oh honey pooh, baby pie." Oh man. And the older you get, you see these new couples coming up, they wear

the same shirts, and you think, oh man, look at them, poor fools. Just give them a few years, they'll figure it out, who they're married to.

But, you know, the interesting thing is, if I would cleave to my wife like I cleave to other things in my life, she would never be offended, she would never be insecure. She would never have to yell or react because she's trying to tell me her world's caving in. Because I'm too busy to hang on to the one that God gave me. That she was the gift that God gave to me. And so, husbands, you need to start cleaving to your wife.

But secondly, I think husbands, you need to learn to "love" your wife. And look with me at (Ephesians 5:25) **"Husbands love your wives."** There are three words in the Greek; there's one, "Eros", which is that erotic love which the bible really doesn't talk about; there is that second word, which is "Fileo", which the bible does talk about - we get the word Philadelphia or brotherly love; and then thirdly, there is that "Agape love", which is a love that is constantly reaching out. And so he declares here, in (Ephesians 5:25) **"Husbands agape your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it."** I'm going to read all the way down to verse 31 and then come back and give you four things to jot down. In verse 26, **"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water by the word. That he might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies; he that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hates his own flesh, but nourish it and cherish it, even as unto the Lord the church. And then verse 31, for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, shall be joined unto his wife and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself, and as the wife see that she reverends her husband."**

Let me give you four things as we're moving through. Number one, the thing that I see here from my life concerning my wife, is that I am to have a sacrificing commitment to my wife. It

is to be one that is willing to sacrifice. Notice it says in verse 25, **“Husbands love your wives even as Christ loved the church.”** Now, how did Christ love the church? He gave His body, sacrificed for it, died in the place of their sin, said to them “they don’t know what they’re doing”, and He was the one that reached out. So this idea of me waiting for her to respond is unbiblical. It takes a real man of God committed by the work of the Holy Spirit to be able to love her in spite of what she’s putting you through. And they will put you through it. They don’t always play by the same rules. She can bring people over any time she wants, I can’t. And she’ll say “oh, I forgot to tell you”. But there’s an understanding between us. A very simple understanding. That it’s her house and she can entertain, no doubt. But it’s also her house, and I need to remind her who might be coming over. So understanding that area of marriage, that things are not always equal, it doesn’t make a difference. If I’m going to be a blessing, I’m going to be a sacrifice to her. Then my whole life is to push her up, to encourage her to be the very best that she can be. So I need to be willing to give my wife the forgiveness that she needs. I need to be willing to walk that second mile. And the question I have for you guys, are you willing to sacrifice for the one that you love? Which means that you need to die to yourself, and you need to live for her. So she needs to become the most important thing outside of Jesus Christ in your life.

But, not only is there a sacrifice involved, there’s a sanctification that needs to take place. And some of you guys are willing to sacrifice, but you’re not willing to sanctify her life. Notice in verse 26 and 27, are you willing to set her aside, **“That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water of the word.”** So a daily devotional life, ministering to her the Word of God - not HBO, not a boat, and not a new home - the precious, precious Word of God. Are you sanctifying her? Sharing the word of God with her? Praying over her? Asking God to help her? Encouraging her in the Word of God? And so as I take the leadership, I am to sacrifice by example. I am to sanctify her by a responsibility that I am stronger in this area and therefore I need to set the pace. I need to set the example. The tragic thing is that I would say that ninety five percent of our women are definitely stronger than the men. And have a greater devotion and commitment to Jesus Christ. We find even the Apostles were hiding when the women were at the tomb. And we find the Apostle

doubting, when the women believed. So be careful guys that you don't begin to say "well, I don't know if I can do this" – you have to do it; it is a command of God. If you're not taking the leadership, you're in disobedience. And so I must sanctify my wife by the washing of, the watering of, Gods Word. Sitting there, ministering, and setting the example. And so, number one, am I willing to sacrifice? Number two, am I willing to sanctify her?

And number three, am I willing to "share" with her? Now, I know it's hard, because when I share, I want to share like five minutes. But when she wants to share, she wants to share an hour. And she wants to tell me the same thing ten different ways, ten different times. And it drives me crazy. And it's cute, but I kind of know where she's going and so I cut her off, and now we have a fight. Because I'm insensitive, which I am, and I don't have patience, which I don't. But she's building this whole story and I just want to get to the punch line - give me facts, baby, facts. I'm a man, don't romance me right now, give me the scoop. Give it to me in a nutshell, I'm a brilliant man, tell me, just tell me once. And so she'll tell me, "Did you hear about so and so?" No. "Did you hear what happened to the car?" No. "Can you believe what happened to car?" No. "Can you believe what happened to her?" No. "Can you believe what happened to the car with her in the car?" No. You know? And I want to move on. But I'm learning. She just can't wait to talk to me, and she has me for a moment, and she doesn't want to lose me, so you're going to sit here and listen. And I have learned, and she'll tell you, just to be very patient and to smile. Because it's either I'm smiling in agony or I'm smiling because I'm really thrilled to be with her, but I'm smiling. And I'm going to listen, because Christ listens to all my murmuring. And Christ listens to all my griping, and Christ listens to everything I want to talk about, and He's always, **"A friend that sticks closer than a brother."** (Proverbs 18:24) I'm not acting like Christ. You say, "I don't like this study. In fact we're going to throw this tape away when I get done with it. This is not going to be one of those tapes we're going to hang on to."

And so, am I willing to sacrifice, am I willing to sanctify, am I willing to set her apart? Number three, am I willing to "share" with her? In verse 28 and 29, **"So ought men to love their own wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife - loveth himself. For no**

man ever yet hates his own flesh, but nourishes it and takes care of it and so you should the church of Jesus Christ. You need to listen to her; you need to talk to her. You have a car. You know you call it your baby, you wax it, you maintain it, you change the oil, you get the air taken care of, you drive it, you show it off. And then you see your wife and think, huh, you know, not much I can do with this. Well, that's not true. If she had an overhaul every once in a while, and could have an oil change, she would probably be a lot happier. Take care of her, maintain her, take her out to dinner. Wow, that's a concept, isn't it? "Honey, we're going to go to McDonalds, we have no money." "But you went and had fish tacos today." "Well, I know but..."

And then number four, "stay with her". Notice in verse 31, **"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall join unto his wife."** In other words, you are to sacrifice, sanctify, you are to share and you are to stay. In other words, guess what guys, this is a commitment. Commit...? "Well I just kind of want to get home and eat and go watch TV." No! You need to ask her how she's doing. "No I can't do that. She'll give me two hours of what's going on in her life. I got things to do, and I want to catch up on the..." Well, time out. You didn't marry "dumpy". You didn't marry football, you married her. And so, when you married her you made a commitment. It's time to sacrifice. And so, husbands, love your wives.

Let's move on, I'm getting too convicted. Turn with me to 1 Peter, chapter 3, verse 7, **"Husbands,** (and this is the great verse for you guys) **dwell with them.** Husbands dwell with them. In 1 Peter, chapter 3, verse 7, **Husbands dwell with them** (and this is kind of bizarre) **likewise ye husbands dwell with them according to knowledge."** Now, what does that mean? That means there are certain things that pushes the buttons in your wife's life. Don't push the button. I mean, it takes wisdom how to live with a woman. And there are certain things that just get her totally upset. If she's one of these gals that get really upset because you're always late, then don't be late. Or communicate, or call. And you know if you don't you're going to get in a major fight. So, if you understand her makeup, in other words, if you've studied her, understand her. My wife...I understand my wife? "Put the lid

down." I totally understand her. "You're not going to answer that phone during dinner are you?" No, I was just getting some water. "What's wrong with you? I give my whole life to you, and all I want is a half hour of your time and you can't even give me that." Sound familiar? Well she's right. "But you know, Honey, that phone call, it could be someone wanting to give us a million dollars. Let me answer it." I just don't know, so inconsiderate. **"Dwell with them according to knowledge."** According to knowledge, what does she like, what does she not like? And so we need to understand the woman that God's given to you. My wife, she has to have it quiet in the morning. If her devotions get messed up, we get messed up. Now, I'm serious. So I would say that the most important thing of my life is in the morning. She has to have her time with God. If she has her time with God, I can do almost anything and get away with it. I can call her up and say "Hey, I'm going to Israel tomorrow". She'll say "have a great time", and then she'll call up the women's ministry, "let's go play". But if I do not take care of her, or I take advantage of her, I'm dead in the water. So it's important to understand what it is to be responsible. **"Dwell with them according to knowledge."**

Understand their makeup. And then notice also chapter 3, verse 7, not only husbands dwell with them, but notice this, **"Husbands honor your wives."** It says "honor" them. In other words, they have a low self esteem sometimes and because we are so aggressive and so insensitive. They are fine tuned. And I've told you before, I'm hungry, I want to eat; she's not hungry, she's "starving to death". It's kind of cold in here; It's "freezing to death". And I mean extremes, high and low. And then we have the same problems you have, "Where do you want to have dinner?" "I don't know, where do you want to have dinner?" "I don't know, you pick". "Okay, let's go here." "I don't like that". "Well now, wait a second, I thought you told...", "No, you had choice last time, it's my choice". "Okay, then make the choice." "No you make it". And then I'm really hungry and she says, "Do want to split something?" "No, I don't want to split something." "Why don't you want to share?" "Because I'm fat and I'm hungry and twice as big as you - take the food home." "I can't believe it cost this much money, oh man." "McDonalds, chicken nuggets, honey." But, you have to learn how to give them honor. How to say to my wife, "you know I'm proud of you for what you've done in the

women's ministry. I'm proud of the walk that you have". Because it's my responsibility to build her up. And if you don't build her up, some other guy is going to build her up. And if you don't love her, some other guy's going to love her. And if you don't make her feel important, someone else is going to make her feel important. And you have to remember that adultery does not happen because of sex, adultery happens because someone made her feel important, or made him feel important. You are to respect him, and you are to love her, and to do that in a wonderful way.

And then also, it mentions that not only am I to honor her, but I'm to "help her," notice, "the weaker vessel". I'm to help her when she gets flustered. I'm to help her work through things. I can always tell, I'm downstairs and the floor starts pounding. I know that she's fighting something and she doesn't have a lot of patience and so I go up there, "I can't believe I can't do this". "No biggie, let me do it for you". And all of a sudden she begins to say, "I can't believe that I'm that dumb". "No, you're not that dumb. I'm going to tell you one more time how to do this thing", you know. And so we start kidding. And we finally came with a new thing we have now where we just blame it on the communist. We used to blame each other, "where's my keys?" "I don't know, did you take them?" "No, I didn't take them, did you take them?" "No." Now we say the communist took our keys. So we take it off ourselves and we find the keys. But when you get our age, you probably don't need to find them anyway.

And then, let me end up before communion, because we have communion tonight, to get me out of this whole trouble. And we got the choir here to bury me tonight afterwards so... Now, I've told you everything positive right? Now I'm going to really, really drive it home. Husbands be careful. Husbands be careful, and I'm guilty of this and I need to go home tonight and makes some things right. Husbands be careful, number one, in (Colossians 3:19) we got there, it says, "**Husbands love your wives** (and help me out, what's it say?) **and be not bitter.**" This is like a revelation in my life, because I've always thought that women had a more difficult time with bitterness than men. But when I read this I realize that maybe men have a more difficult time - because when a woman doesn't respect you or when you don't feel that they are really trying to help you, then we become very resentful. And I have to say

that, when I resent, as a man...I back away. And I would say that most men back away. And what happens is we become bitter and we lose the love of our life and then other women become more attractive. Because you've allowed bitterness to get between you two, because you've allowed anger and jealousy to fester between you, because maybe she doesn't respect you and not listening to you or has really hurt you. You have found that you have backed away. And though you love her, you're afraid to make a deeper commitment because you don't want to get hurt again. Though I understand that, I'm so glad Jesus Christ didn't stop, but went all the way through the cross. And what I have to say to my wife tonight is I need to learn to go through the hurt and to see Jesus Christ, and to set the example for her. Sometimes men get hurt, sometimes guys get really devastated because the ego is so important to us. And women, you hold a man's ego in your hand, and you can crush it. You might think he's strong but you can destroy that ego. If you would encourage him and build him up. You're going to have difficult times, but don't become bitter, ever become bitter with her. She's the love of your life, and you need to forgive her, and you need to go the second mile and I would say be careful that you do not become bitter with her.

Number two, I want you to notice very carefully, very carefully, number two. It goes back to (1 Peter 3:7), you don't need to turn there, **"That your prayers be not hindered."** If you're bitter with your wife tonight, or if you resent the woman you're married to, God's not going to answer your prayers. Because the two of you are not walking in harmony, it's going to affect your spiritual life. And so Satan gets a wedge, and Satan gets in there and causes all kinds of havoc. And the bible says, **"Don't let the sun go down upon your wrath."** (Ephesians 4:26) It's important to work out the situation, work out the problem. If your husband has to work it out that night and its eleven o'clock at night, work it out with him. Just work it out, don't tell him to wait. Work it out. If she needs to work it out over the phone, then work it out over the phone. In other words, you need to learn to get rid of the bitterness, and bitterness is anger repressed. It's this anger taken root. I'm angry with my wife because she won't let me do it. It has to be her way and always her way and she's dictating to me and just...and so a guy just backs off. Gets quiet. Resents, resists. And all of a sudden that anger begins to burn and there's bitterness, and all of a sudden you begin to

lose heart. And so you begin to think that you can have a great life with God, but the very one He gave you as a gift you're mad at. God says don't come before My throne if you don't have it right with her. I'm telling you guys, you who are married, you have to love your wives. There's no one else that's willing to put up with you, no one else that would ever stay with you.

And lastly, I think it's so important, is "don't become foolish". Oh you know, God's going to bless my life, and God's going to bless her life - no it goes together, it goes together. So here's my counsel to us men. Your problem is not the church or your marriage or your family or where you have come from or what color you are, that's not the problem. Here's the problem. The problem is we are not willing to take the responsibility that God has given us under the government of God to become the men and the leaders of our fellowship. So we should never have guys hitting on gals in this fellowship. Because we should be protecting the women, not hitting on the women. That shows the carnality of the fellowship. And so I challenge you men, single men, you set the standard in your life, if you do that you will shine. And I'll tell you this, God will bring a gal in your life quicker than you can blink an eye. Because a gal's looking and the bible says where are all the Godly men? Where are they? Well they should be lifting up their hands and they should be worshipping the Lord.

Closing Prayer:

Well Father, we thank You, that God, we can come tonight to Your table. And we can understand the wonderful gift of salvation. How that you set the example, and what a great night to think of husbands, think of myself. How that 2000 years ago, when I was without Christ and without God, alienated, that Christ, You died for my sins. And all the things that I have put You through, that Lord, You have been so tender and so gentle. And God, that You have always provided, You have always given me the very best. Lord, I pray that I would live that way before my wife, before this congregation, before my brothers and sisters. That God, I would live that sacrificial life, that I would sanctify my friends through thy Word. That Lord, we would share the goodness of Jesus Christ. And that Lord, we would stay true to the convictions of the Holy Spirit. Father, as we come to You, Lord, minister to us, that apart from

Jesus Christ, there's not a woman that can submit to a man. And apart from Jesus Christ, there's not a guy that can take the leadership responsibility. Make us the men and make us the women that You've called us to be and we will thank You in Jesus' name, Amen.