

## Your Daily Appointments With God

**MONDAY:** *Give equal respect and honor to men and women.*

Read Genesis 1:26–27, 31, Galatians 3:26–28, Ephesians 5:33 and 1 Peter 3:7. Men and women are all blessed by God to be made in His image. What an honor! And in Christ we are all equal. What a privilege! Men are told to honor their wives, and women are reminded to respect their husbands. We are equal but different. Our roles may be different, but God is clear: Give one another honor and respect.

**TUESDAY:** *Appreciate and utilize our differences.*

Read Genesis 2:7, 22–25. Note the emphasis on woman being created to complement man. They were custom-designed by God to support and assist each other. Adam noticed right away that she was like him but also different. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7–12. How are men and women different, and why are both needed? Whether single or married, thank God that we are NOT the same, and ask Him to help us appreciate the unique differences of the opposite sex.

**Wednesday:** *Love as a companion and helper.*

Read Genesis 2:18 and Philippians 2:3–4. Men and women are to help one another, serving one another as Christ serves us. As we do, let's remember that the number-one need God was addressing in creation was the need for companionship, to not be alone. Ask your spouse (or if single, a close friend), "How can I serve you?" Then give the gift of time spent together.

**Thursday:** *Love with praise and honest feedback.*

Read Ephesians 4:25–27. We need one another's perspective to balance us out. Male and female minds and mindsets are indeed different by design! If in marriage the two become one, surely this Ephesians passage applies! Shower your spouse or friend with appreciation!

**Friday:** *Love with loyalty and romance.*

Read Genesis 2:24–25. This applies differently for those who are single versus married. We are to first "leave and cleave" (the covenant of marriage). Then we are to give of ourselves fully, intimately and without shame to our spouse. Read 1 Corinthians 7:2–5. Our sexuality is a gift from God to be enjoyed fully but in the context of marriage.

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## The Case for Christ!

Part 13 - Colossians 3:18-19

**Intro:** Behind every great building there was first a blueprint. A blueprint drawn by a master architect. Behind every great piece of music, there was first a composition written in detail by a composer.

- In the world of sports it's called a great game plan. Crafted by a coach or a manager. Any sports fan knows how important a good game plan is to winning.
- The same game plan is what Paul is designing for the church, for the follower of Jesus and now for the HOME!

*" . . . in your hearts revere (or set apart – NKJV) Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,"*

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

### I. The Apostle Paul Now Teaches About The Importance Of Relationships In The Home And Society

- A. He begins his teaching on \_\_\_\_\_ in vss. 18-21.
- B. It was very important to Paul to teach this young church and put them on a strong foundation of Christ and Christ alone!
  - Paul tells the church that Christianity should have the most significant social institution in the world, which is? The \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. The other institution the Lord blessed/set apart at creation, that He gave His blessing to was, His Divine design called \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. Paul talks about the relationship \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord revealed!
  - Whether married, single, divorced, widowed, young or more mature in life.
- E. He says the aspect of being a new Man, a new Person in Christ should be more evident in the home.
- F. Paul is brief and direct about Three Relationships in a home. Beginning with the ancient home in Colossae, then with the 21<sup>st</sup> century home, today! \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, vss. 18 and 19; children and parents, vs. 20 and 21; servants and masters, vs. 22; in the ancient home.

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G. Paul teaches us that our Christianity should affect the home, because being a new person we put off the old and put on the new, in vs. 15, you're ruled by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, vs. 16, by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, and vs. 17, by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, and it's this new Person in Christ that will have an impact in the home.

H. As Paul teaches, he doesn't say anything new or introduce any great new truths. He has two old principles. What are they?  
\_\_\_\_\_ on the part of the husband  
and \_\_\_\_\_ on the part of the wife.

I. Christianity doesn't introduced a new principle.

- Number one: Christianity introduces a new \_\_\_\_\_.
- The home has number two: a new \_\_\_\_\_, because of a new presence.  
\* The power of Jesus Christ to make the family/home what it ought to be.
- There's also number three: a new \_\_\_\_\_.
- Christianity introduces into the home a new purpose: "*Whatever you do*" – vs. 17 – "*in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.*"
- Number four: there's a new \_\_\_\_\_ for the home.  
\* Ephesians chap. 5 says, "*Husbands, love your wives, even as*" - what? - "*Christ*" – "\_\_\_\_\_."

J. So there's a *new presence*, giving a *new power* toward a *new purpose* following a *new pattern*, to fulfill an old principle; that God has intended \_\_\_\_\_ and submission to exist in the home.

➤ "*Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord.* vs. 19, *Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.*"  
Colossians 3:18 (NLT)

K. What kind of submission does this means? Submission DOES NOT mean inferior to your husband! Jesus wasn't inferior to God; yet He submitted, didn't He?

L. Submission should always be in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as equals. As a Christian wife, who loves her husband, who sees him as God's gift to her.

M. Here's the ethical part of Paul's letter to the Colossians for vss. 18-19.

- It's called Reciprocal \_\_\_\_\_.
- \* It's never an obligation, which all the duties are on one side! As Paul saw it, husbands have as great an obligation as wives; parents have just as binding a duty as children etc.

N. So what do we learn from the lessons of the creation of mankind?

- Number one: men and women are the same, \_\_\_\_\_ blessed and \_\_\_\_\_ by God.
- Number two: We are different by God's \_\_\_\_\_.

➤ "*Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."* Genesis 2:18 (NASB)

O. The word "helper" in Hebrew is used 19 times just in the book of Genesis.

- 16 of 19 times it's a reference to Yahweh/God as the HELPER of Israel.
- In the same sense that God is the HELPER of Israel, women are uniquely crafted to be "\_\_\_\_\_ " of men.

P. The word "\_\_\_\_\_ " in vs. 18b says, "*a helper suitable for him.*"

- In Hebrew its translated to mean, "*in front of him*" and or "*opposite.*"
- 16 times in Genesis it's translated as "opposite." The Lord is saying, He'll make a helper who'll be opposite of you and compliment you!

Q. What do we learn in order to have a good marriage?

- Number one: \_\_\_\_\_ your spouse or future spouse as your \_\_\_\_\_.
- Number two: \_\_\_\_\_ your spouse or future spouse despite the differences between you both.
- Number three: Marriage as well as mankind is not an after thought of God, but a \_\_\_\_\_, designed by God for men and women.

R. Five Truths from these texts on men, women, relationships and marriage.

- Number one: It's not good for man or woman to be \_\_\_\_\_. Vs. 18, ". . . *the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; "*
- Number two: Vs. 18b "*I will make him a \_\_\_\_\_ suitable for him.*" Adam needed Eve with her role as being an equal partner in relationship!
- Number three: Vs. 23 says, "*Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called \_\_\_\_\_, . . ."*
- Number four: I need to leave and \_\_\_\_\_ according to vs. 24a, "*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, . . .*" [NKJV] (In Hebrew it means an inseparable bond.)
- Number five: Vs. 24b says, ". . . *and they shall become \_\_\_\_\_ flesh.*" A team according to the Bible - one man and one woman in love.
- Biblical truth tells us how to build a healthy marriage, a healthy relationship, a healthy family and healthy children.

S. So "The Case for Christ" - means that as Christian men and women we honor the MASTER DESIGNER by seeking and living Godly relationship principles in and outside of marriage!