Christ|God Visible #11 Pastor Rick Baker

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A Bigger and Better Way to Do Family Life

***Christ makes things better***

Col. 3:18-4:1

*“Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.”*

(A. Tolstoy; Anna Karenina, 1878)

Where the rubber of Christian virtues hits the road of real life!

Why Christian marriages should be and are different!

*Presuppositions before a deeper dive into how Christian domestic life operates:*

* Christian members of families have died with Christ to themselves to be raised with Christ to a new way of living (2:20; 3:1).
* God’s creation design is to give form to the unformed and to fill the unfilled (Gen. 1:1f).
* Power, structure and roles are not the enemy of the family unit; the abuse of power and chaos are.
* The battle of domination and subtle or not so subtle manipulation is what Christian marriage is intended to reverse.
* In Christian domestic living, the powerful are presented duties to protect the powerless, and the powerless are granted rights that require responsibilities.
* Christian domestic life is about the faith-formation family and what actually happens through the renewing/transforming work of Christ—God’s chosen, holy, dearly loved people placed in families where Christian virtues go to excel or die.
* God’s grace and Christ’s Lordship motivates and obligates each person in one’s unique God-determined placement in a family to live out what a dead-to-self, alive-to-Christ family lives like—not what I can get from this family; but rather, what can I give to the family?

What does it look like to be a wife, husband, child, parent (father), servant, master who has been raised with Christ to set their hearts on things above?

From a man-centred culture 🡪 a self-centred culture

From community oppression 🡪 community chaos

* Christianity brings community peace and mission

**What is my duty to the alive-to-Christ; dead-to-self mission and worldview I gratefully represent?**

*How equality and different roles and different power is to be shaped in family units that form the church of equal souls—the Family of God*.

**WHY**? Because I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to self in favour of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Christ!

1. Husbands and wives are to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3:18-19)

**Wives**-

**Husbands**-

1. Parent/child relationships are to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3:20-21)

**Children**-

**Fathers**-

1. Master/servant relationships are to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ each other (3:22-4:1)

**Servants**-

**Masters**-

*All of this is a gift of our emancipating salvation that frees us to enjoy right living in the roles purposed for us by our loving Father—saved to live a life of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and no longer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the new order where the peace of Christ rules richly and deeply.*