

## CHRIST-LIKENESS IS THE GOAL.

### Warm up

- Am I willing to consider that God's design could be best?
- What are my next steps to follow God's best for me, my family, and my relationships?

### Colossians 3:18-21

*Wives, submit to your husbands, **as is fitting in the Lord.**<sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.<sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, **for this pleases the Lord.**<sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

### Reaching our goals...

- Wives: How many of you would like to see your husband reach his full potential?
- Wives: Would you be interested in hearing what God says is the role you play in helping your husband reach his potential?

How? Honor **Christ** by submitting to your husband – 3:18 *Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

- Equal **value** but different **roles** in the economy of the family.
- Kathy Keller: "Submission isn't being a doormat; it's offering a gift as Jesus offered His submission as a gift...in Philippians 2 Jesus is submitting and in Ephesians 5 he is leading."
- Kathy Keller: "Submission is the reverse of the "Do not try this at home" it's "Only try this at home."
- Husbands: If you dishonor or treat your wife harshly (emotionally or physically) your prayers will be hindered – 1 Peter 3:7 *Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.*

How? Honor Christ by how you treat your wife – 3:19 *Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.*

- Get saved.
  - Treat her as a precious **treasure**.
  - Speak and act with tender care.
  - Water her soul with affirmation.
- Children – 3:20 *obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.*
    - Honoring your dysfunctional parents is not **endorsing** their sinful selfish actions. Rather, it is a sacrifice that ultimately honors God.
  - Fathers – 3:21 *do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*
    - Model **repentance**: When you mess up, fess up, don't give up.

### Further questions

- 1) Can you identify your family's area of dysfunction?
- 2) Can you identify your part in your family's dysfunction?
- 3) Are you willing to draw near to God so that He can change your family by changing you?

### Resources

- *Focus on the Family*: [www.focusonthefamily.com](http://www.focusonthefamily.com)
- *Grace-filled Parenting* by Paul David Tripp
- *How to Bring Your Children to Christ and Keep Them There: Avoiding the Tragedy of False Conversion* by Ray Comfort
- *The Art of Marriage* by Family Life Ministries
- *The Meaning of Marriage* by Tim & Kathy Keller