



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1.8

Northside Church of Christ Welcomes You!

June 12, 2016

How to Be a Godly Person in an Ungodly World: Part Three

Bryan Garlock

We are in the midst of a study of how a person can be godly in an ungodly world. In our first article we wrote about the increasingly depraved generation that we are currently experiencing. This should not be strange to a Christian for even Paul wrote, "Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2.14-15).

As Christians living in a world controlled by the "god of this world" (2 Cor. 4.4), it should not surprise us when our schools, workplaces and communities are filled with unrighteousness.

This will be our third installment to the series in which we will examine more closely the role of the husband and father. To see the role of the wife and mother and how the wisdom of the world has distorted the biblical concept of women, as well as some opening thoughts on the husband, see parts one and two on our website.

In part two we mentioned that the world does not understand the husband's role. Instead of treating the biblical husband as the benevolent dictator that he is, they treat him as one who is self-focused, thinking himself superior to all women and using them for only one purpose - to serve his physical needs.

However, notice that we said, "the benevolent dictator that he is." One may wonder how this writer could call a man a dictator and yet disregard all the opinions of the feminist movement.

Consider for a moment our Lord and Savior. He is our master and dictator of our lives. However, have you ever felt disrespected by Him? Despised? Mistreated? How can it be that he is a dictator and yet our relationship with Him is one of peace and joy and encouragement? It is because of the way that He chooses to dictate to us.

Many do not care for dictators and rightly so. When we contemplate the word our minds think of tyrants and oppressors, bullies and persecutors. However, our Lord is none of these things, nor is the husband to be these things.

Northside
church Of Christ

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Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us.
- Call or email Bryan to add announcements, thanks.
- **We need volunteers for door knocking. Please see Bryan.**
- **We need volunteers for picking folks up. Please see Bryan.**

Five Day A Week Reading Plan

Mon: Psalm 98-102

Tues: Psalm 103-107

Wed: Psalm 108-112

Thurs: Psalm 113-117

Fri: Psalm 118-122

Paul wrote, "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it..." (Eph. 5.25-29).

Surely if we are honest with Paul's words we see the type of ruler the husband is to be. A cursory reading shows that Christ was a loving, unselfish, sacrificial, caring, serving and encouraging leader. Notice too that the husband is to portray Christ in every way and that his leadership is to represent that of Christ's. This is how a man can be a benevolent dictator and a godly husband in an ungodly world.

In addition to a man treating his wife as Christ treats the church, he is also to treat her as he does his own body. It is certainly an unfortunate event when a person hates himself so much that he can bring himself to end his life. Thus Paul's words resonate with the general population. Interestingly, this defines the husband's leadership even more. His rule over her includes loving, cherishing and nourishing her. Consider the care and concern a mother exerts in cherishing and nourishing her newborn child. Can it be said that the husband's disposition should be any different?

Part of treasuring her is living with her in an understanding way. Peter wrote, "...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" (1 Peter 3.7). This man will consider her advice and wisdom. He will be aware of her feelings, emotions and interest. He will honor her by seeking to understand her. At one time he considered his needs only; now he studies his wife to understand her needs above his. This becomes a way of life for him. He is honoring the one flesh God has joined together.

Peter's words have always impressed this writer, though oftentimes this writer has failed to keep them. These inspired words are essential in understanding why men should honor their wives. It is because the godly wife shares in the same hope of eternal life as her husband, among other reasons. This is fundamental to our discussion. Yet these inspired words are also conditional. God will refuse to hear the prayer of an ungodly husband. Peter continued later in his letter, "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil" (3.12). Notice that the husband who fails Peter's instructions is parallel to the evil one that the face of the Lord is against. All husbands ought to give serious thought as to how they treat their weaker vessels.

Clearly, we can make a distinction between the self-serving man of this world and a godly husband! We will continue discussing the role of the husband and father in our next segment.