

## I recently read the following:

“We know artists by their most important creations: Michelangelo by the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, Beethoven by his ‘Fifth Symphony.’ Each masterpiece reveals something of its creator.

The same is true of God. We catch a glimpse of the God at work by reading the first two chapters of Genesis. He spoke galaxies into existence, formed the mountains, filled the oceans, and planted forests. But the masterpiece that reveals more about God than anything else shows up when God made something called ‘family.’ *Genesis 1:27-28*

Two essential elements of family — marriage and parenthood — reveal God’s character like nothing else in Creation. The love between a husband and wife provides a glimpse of Christ’s passionate devotion to us as His bride. In the same way, the ups and downs of parenthood offer a compelling picture of God’s tenderness and patience toward us as His children.”

[www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/the-purpose-of-the-family/](http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/the-purpose-of-the-family/)

Paul certainly believed this to be true in Colossians 3. Continuing the application of Christ’s supremacy and sufficiency, Paul told the Colossians “Every relationship in your life is a reflection of your relationship with Jesus Christ.”

**Key thought:** Your relationships are to reveal the supremacy of Jesus Christ in your life.

## JESUS IS TO BE EVIDENT IN YOUR MARRIAGE

*Ephesians 5:22-28*

1. Wives – be subject – *3:18*
  - a. Responsive to a husband’s unselfish love
  - b. Middle voice – voluntary
  - c. Appropriate for a Christian
  
2. Husbands – *agape* love – *3:19*
  - a. Don’t be bitter
  - b. Don’t be harsh

## JESUS IS TO BE EVIDENT IN THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN

1. Children, honor Christ by respecting and obeying your parents – *3:20; Ephesians 6:1*
2. Parents, love and lead your children to obedience – *3:21; Ephesians 6:4*

## Take away:

- Surrender to Jesus as supreme and sufficient in your life.
- Ask God to show you how your relationships display the character of Christ.
- Ask God to show you areas in your relationships that dishonor Christ.
- Seek to cultivate relationships that are a testimony to the supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ in your life.