



# **Introduction to the Doctrine of Vocation**

**CPC Adult Sunday School  
Week 10 - Vocation in Family**

April 13, 2025

# Life is Messy

*<sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*

Galatians 5:16-17

\*Romans 7

\*Genesis 3

*<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes... Romans 1:16*



# The Importance of Family



*<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him”... <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” <sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

Genesis 2:18, 22-24

*<sup>14</sup> “You shall not commit adultery.” Exodus 20:14 — See WCF 24 & WLC 137-139*

*<sup>31</sup> “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*

Ephesians 5:31-32



*<sup>12</sup> “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.*

Exodus 20:12 — See WLC 123-133

*<sup>51</sup> And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.*

Luke 2:51

*<sup>25</sup> but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.*

John 19:25-27



# The Purpose and Blessing of Family



*<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

Genesis 1:27-28

*<sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

Genesis 12:1-3

*<sup>22</sup> He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.*

Proverbs 18:22

*<sup>10</sup> An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. <sup>11</sup> The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. <sup>12</sup> She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.*

Proverbs 31:1-3

*<sup>3</sup> Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.*

Psalms 127:3

*<sup>8</sup> But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

1 Timothy 5:8

# Some Threats to Family (Sins Against Vocation)

**The World**

**The Flesh**

**The Devil**

**Domestic Violence**

**Child Abuse**

**\*A note about abuse**

**Divorce**

**Infidelity**

**Elder Abuse**

**Neglect**

**Abandonment (Willful Desertion)**

**\*Fellowship is a protective factor.**





# Vocation in Marriage



*<sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

Ephesians 5:21-33



*<sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

John 15:5

**\*Wives:** cultivate and protect Godly leadership through Godly submission and respect toward her husband.

**\*Husbands:** cultivate and protect Godly submission through the exercise of Godly leadership (giving himself up in nourishing and cherishing his wife).

**\*What does (should) this look like in your marriage?**



# Vocation in Parenting

*<sup>1</sup> Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>3</sup> “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4*

- \*The Family (household) is like a little church.**
- \*Children are called to cultivate and protect the honor of their parents through Godly submission.**
- \*Parents (with Dad taking the lead) are called to cultivate and protect the discipleship of their children.**
- \*Includes meeting all their basic needs (addressing heart, soul, mind and strength) as the family is being renewed in Christ. Make sure they are known and loved.**
- \*Cultivating and protecting their gifts and talents.**
- \*Training them in the use of the means of grace (Family Worship and Church Life).**
- \*Modeling repentance and faith.**
- \*Seeking training/help when needed.**
- \*Applying discipline and correction with great care.**
- \*Catechesis**
- \*Other?**



# Some Guiding Questions for Exercising Authority

*<sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, <sup>28</sup> even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Matthew 20:25-28

How does the gospel apply to the authority I’ve been given?

What are the limits of my authority?

How do I use my power to serve those under my authority?

How do I cultivate feedback from those under my authority?

How do I cultivate a sense of safety for those under my authority?

How do I protect against my own sinful misuse of authority?

How do I model repentance and faith in the use of my authority?







# Some Final Thoughts



**For Singles:**

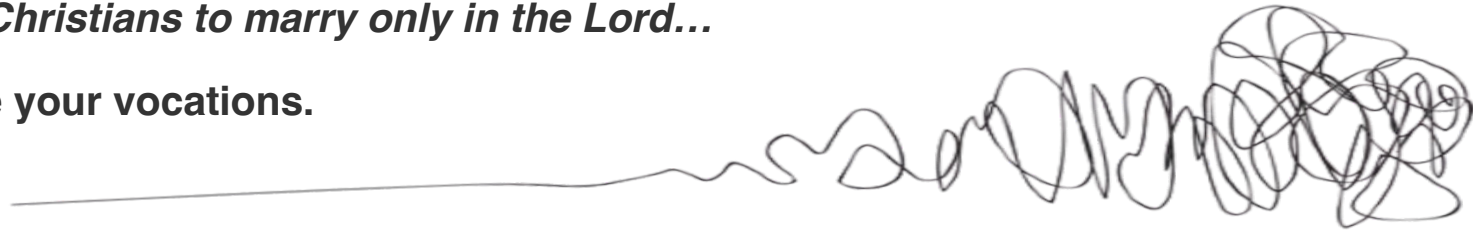
***<sup>39</sup> A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.***

**1 Corinthians 7:39**

**WCF 24.3 - It is lawful for all sorts of people to marry who are able with judgment to give their consent. Yet it is the duty of Christians to marry only in the Lord...**

**\*Continue to pursue your vocations.**

**For the “Messy”:**



***<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.***

***<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.***

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

# Digging Deeper

1. What is most challenging for you in loving and serving in your family?
2. What do you think is the biggest disconnect for you between the gospel and your vocation in family?
3. Write a prayer addressing your answers to the first two questions.

