

Sermon Series: “Fundamentals for a Christ-filled Home”-Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—
10/14/07

Title: “Practicing a grace-based home life”

Text: Colossians 3: 12-17

Intro.: *Ills.: Extreme Grace*

Theme: Grace is the heartbeat of the Christian family’s ability to survive the normal rigors and trials of normal family relationships, and it becomes the attractive witness to others of what Jesus brings to our lives and homes.

All dressed up with grace’s wearing apparel

- Grace-based homes are intentional
 1. Don’t dabble, dive into grace based living (*Clothe yourself . . . vs. 12*)
 2. Begun in Christ, we start out with grace’s clothing,
 - a. *For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. Gal 3: 27*
 3. It continues in Christ as His purpose for you for today(*as those who have been chosen of God*)
 - a. *“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain.” John 15: 16*
- Grace-based homes are grace-led/not law-driven
 1. *For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. Romans 6:14*
 2. Rooting out legalism and motivating by Christ’s compelling love in our parenting and family relating
 3. *For the love of Christ compels us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. 2 Cor. 4: 14-15*
 4. No room for selfish living in a grace-based home (*For sin shall not be your master . . .*)
 5. *So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:34-36*
- Recognizing grace when you see it (**Print and read Colossians 3: 12-13**)
 1. **Empathy** — (splankna—gut feeling of mercy) – get emotionally involved by climbing in the other’s shoes
 - a. *Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Philip. 2:1-2*
 2. **Generosity** – (undeserved/undemanding, gracious) — not waiting to be asked but doing for and to others
 3. **Humility** – (going down to come up) – not pushing ahead but intentionally putting self under
 4. **Meekness** – (not a zealot but a friend) — toning down our reactions and responses and rough talk
 - a. **Ills.: Choosing a relationship over being right**
 5. **Longsuffering** – (the difference between endurance and tolerance) – do you have a clock on your patience at home
 - a. *Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? Romans 2:4*
 6. **Unconditionally forgiving** (gracing another) – no size or frequency of another’s sin too big to release/forgive

Steps toward grace-based living

- Bind your actions and words with Christ’s divine love
 1. **Ills.: Reasonable laws about speeding**
 2. *make them a chained servant. . .then they will be complete v14*
 3. Asking the simple question before you speak or act, “Will this show love? Would Jesus let this happen?”
- Submit to the “**binding arbitration**” of Christ’s peace (*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. vs. 15*)
 1. *If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Romans 12:18*
 2. Because you see the God-ordained interdependence you have with each other (*one body*)
 3. Focus on what you are thankful about each other (*and be thankful*) rather than the shortcomings

- Be rich in Word dwelling (**Print Col 3: 16**)
 1. Make your family devotion time about searching for godly examples of family in the Bible and apply them
 2. *Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person. Col. 4:6*
- Honor Christ (**Print Col. 3: 17**)
 1. Imagine a home in which sons/daughters, parent/child husbands/wife, made that their goal in everything
 2. *To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thess. 1:11-12*
- 3. **Ills.: St. Patrick's Breastplate**

Extreme Grace

A dad was helping his kindergarten-age son put on his cowboy boots? He asked for help, and he could see why. Even with him pulling and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on. By the time they got the second boot on, he had worked up a sweat. He almost cried when the little boy said, "Dad, they're on the wrong feet." He looked, and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. He managed to keep his cool as together they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the right feet. He then announced, "These aren't my boots." Dad bit his tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" Once again, he struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet. No sooner had they gotten the boots off when he said, "They're my brother's boots. Mom made me wear 'em." Now Dad didn't know if he should laugh or get mad, but he mustered up what grace and courage he had left to wrestle the boots on his feet again. Helping him into his coat, he asked, "Now, where are your mittens?" His son said, "I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots." **Submitted by John Beukema, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania**

Choosing a relationship over being right

The following story from author Leonard Sweet highlights the importance of valuing our relationships with other people: Tom Wiles served a stint as university chaplain at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. A few years ago, he picked me up at the Phoenix airport in his new Ford pickup and whisked me away to keynote a leadership conference at the university. Since I was still mourning the trade-in of my Dodge truck, we immediately bonded, sharing truck stories and laughing at the bumper-sticker truism: "Nothing is more beautiful than a man and his truck." As I climbed into his 2002 Ranger for the ride back to the airport a day later, I noticed two big scrapes by the passenger door. "What happened here?" I asked. "My neighbor's basketball post fell and left those dents and white scars," Tom replied with a downcast voice. "You're kidding! How awful," I commiserated. "This truck is so new I can smell it." "What's even worse is my neighbor doesn't feel responsible for the damage." Rising to my newfound friend's defense, I said, "Did you contact your insurance company? How are you going to get him to pay for it?" "This has been a real spiritual journey for me," Tom replied. "After a lot of soul-searching and discussions with my wife about hiring an attorney, it came down to this: I can either be in the right, or I can be in a relationship with my neighbor. Since my neighbor will probably be with me longer than this truck, I decided that I'd rather be in a relationship than be right. Besides, trucks are meant to be banged up, so I got mine initiated into the real world a bit earlier than I expected." **Leonard Sweet, Out of the Question...Into the Mystery (Waterbrook Press, 2004), p. 91-92.**

Reasonable laws about speeding?

7.08(6) Speed

(a) In general: Reasonable and Proper.

An Operator may not operate a vehicle at a rate of speed greater than which is reasonable and proper, having due regard for traffic, the condition of the roadway, and the safety of the public and property.

(b) In General: Not Driving so as to Endanger.

An operator may not operate a vehicle at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger unreasonably or the be likely

to endanger unreasonably persons or property. **2007 Code Of Massachusetts Regulations 730 CMR -- Massachusetts Turnpike Authority**

St Patrick's Breastplate

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Col. 3:12-17

¹²So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. [NASB]

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. [NASB]