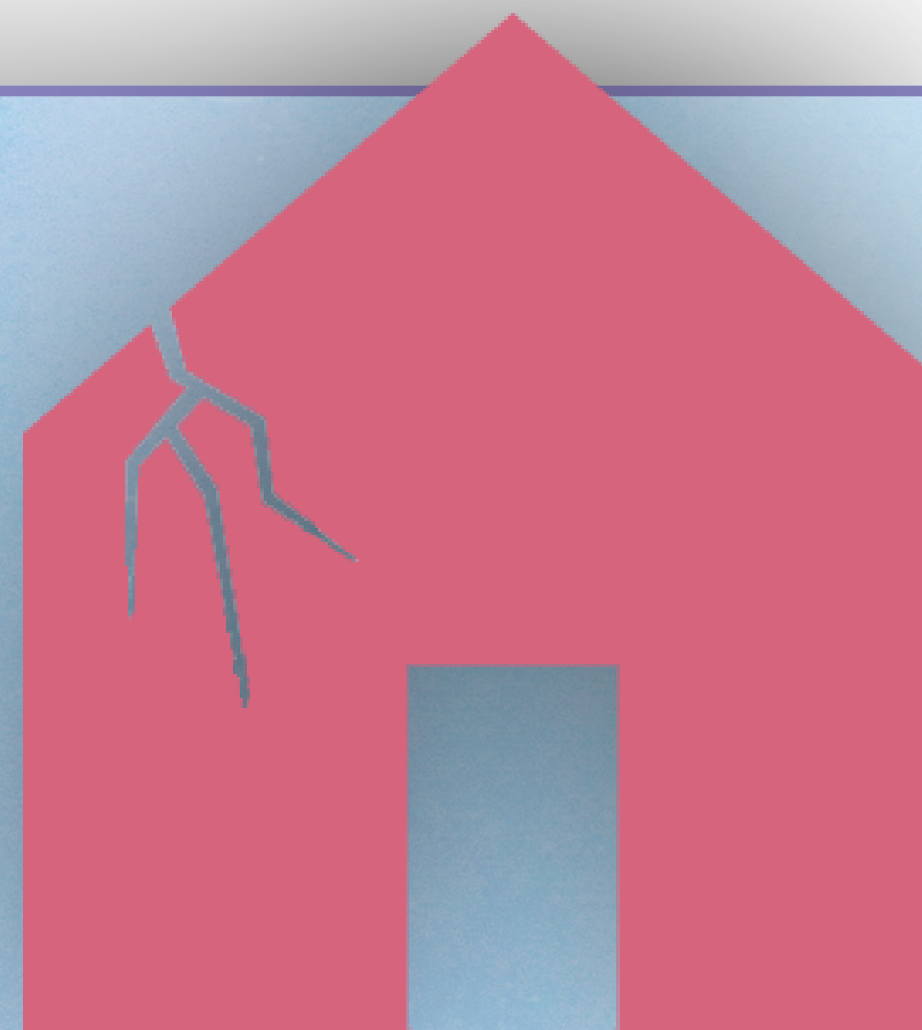


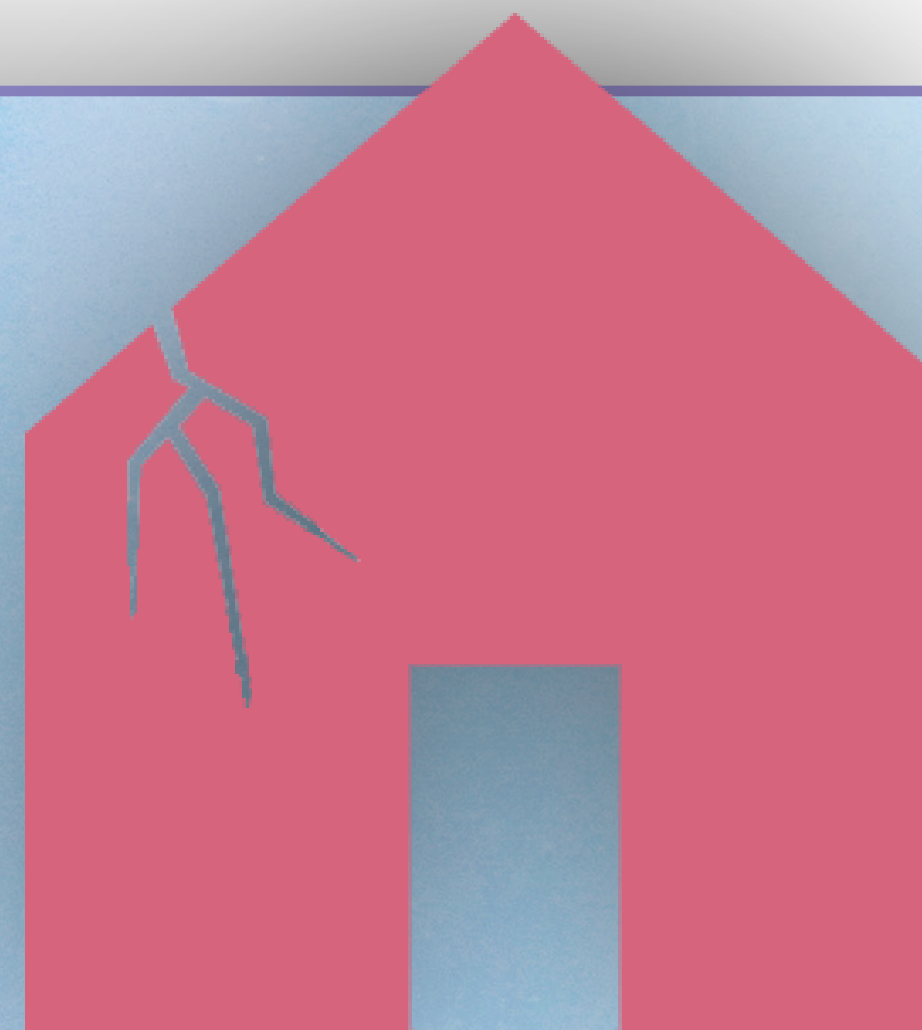
Family Matters

PASTOR MIKE YODER • COLOSSIANS 3:18–21



Is your home a *refuge* or a *cage match*?

The plight of the family
is currently sobering.



*Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting
in the Lord.*

Colossians 3:18

Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

Colossians 3:19

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

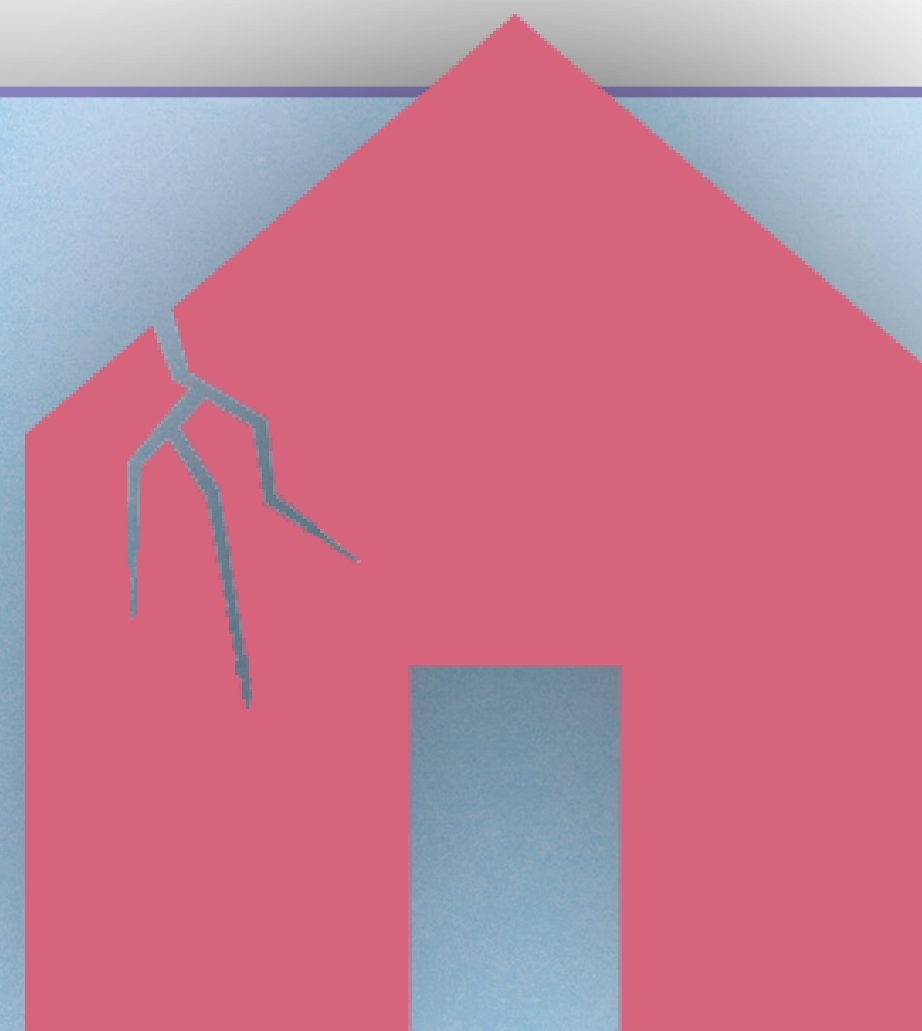
Colossians 3:20

Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Colossians 3:21

It is in the closest and most familiar relationships of daily living that the reality of one's Christian profession will normally be manifest.

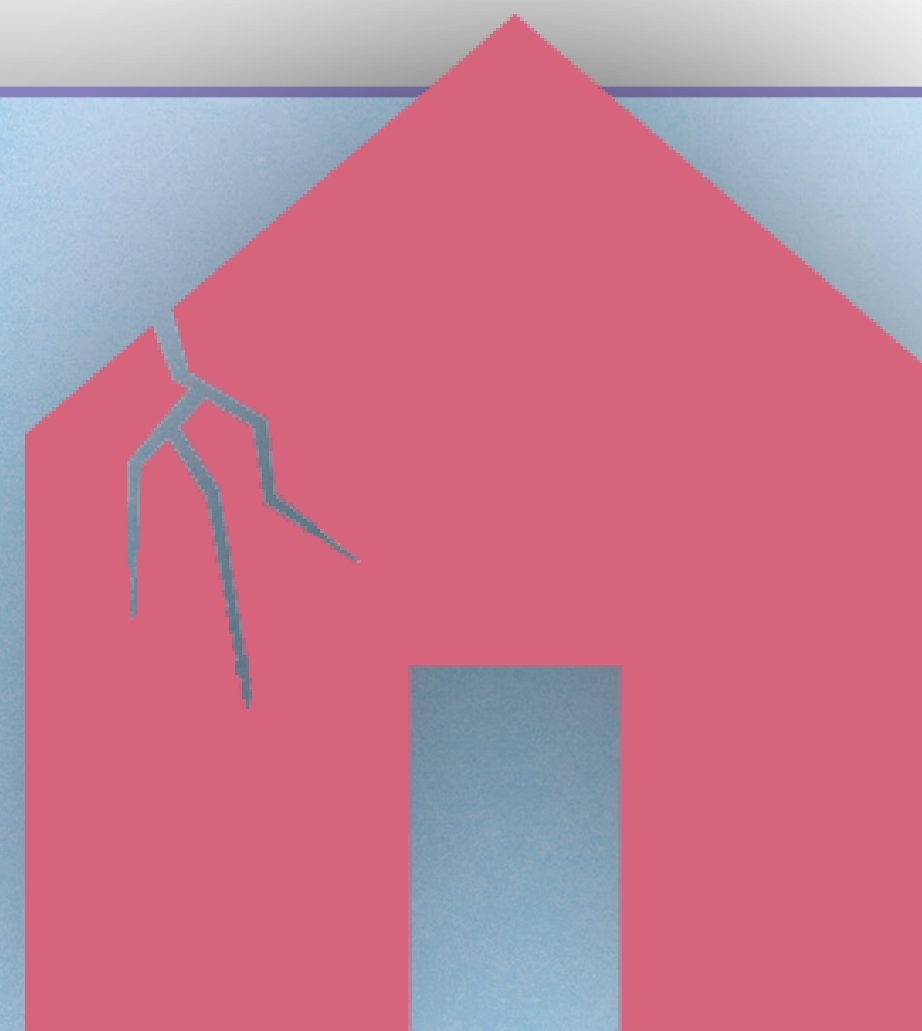
The pattern for the family
is enduringly divine.



It would be a bold person who would argue, in the face of modern society, that the contemporary non-Christian world...

offers a better model for marriage and family life than that provided by the ancient world, still less than that suggested by Paul.

Wives



Paul is not suggesting here that the woman is naturally or spiritually inferior to the man, or the wife to the husband.

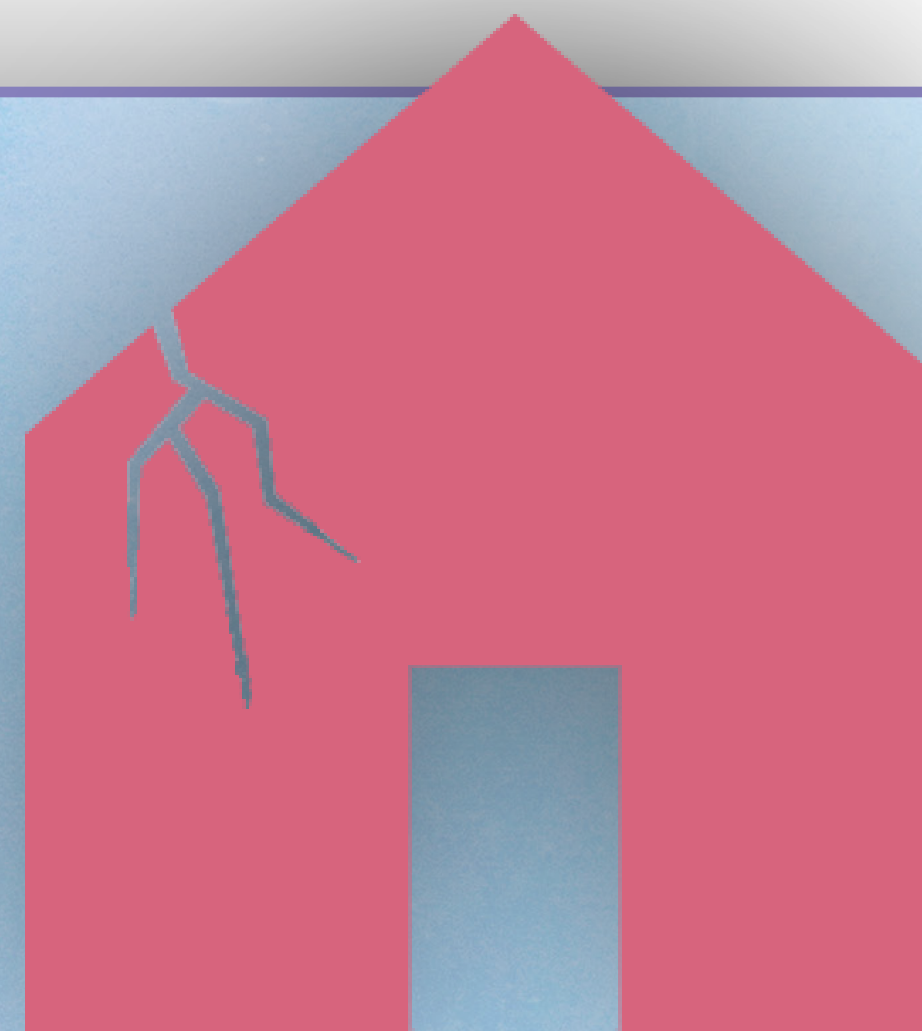
But he does mention elsewhere that there is a divinely instituted hierarchy in the order of creation, and in this order the wife follows that of her husband.

Submission is the determined disposition to defer to the one who has been given primary responsibility for us.

Jesus's willing acceptance of this role was wholly voluntary, a gift to His Father. I discovered here that my submission in marriage was a gift I offered, not a duty coerced from me.

Kathy Keller

Husbands



*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church
and gave Himself up for her*

Ephesians 5:25

*to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water
through the Word,*

Ephesians 5:26

*and to present her to Himself as a radiant church,
without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but
holy and blameless.*

Whenever the husband's headship mirrors the headship of Christ, then the wife's submission to the protection and provision of his love, far from detracting from her womanhood, will positively enrich it.

John Stott

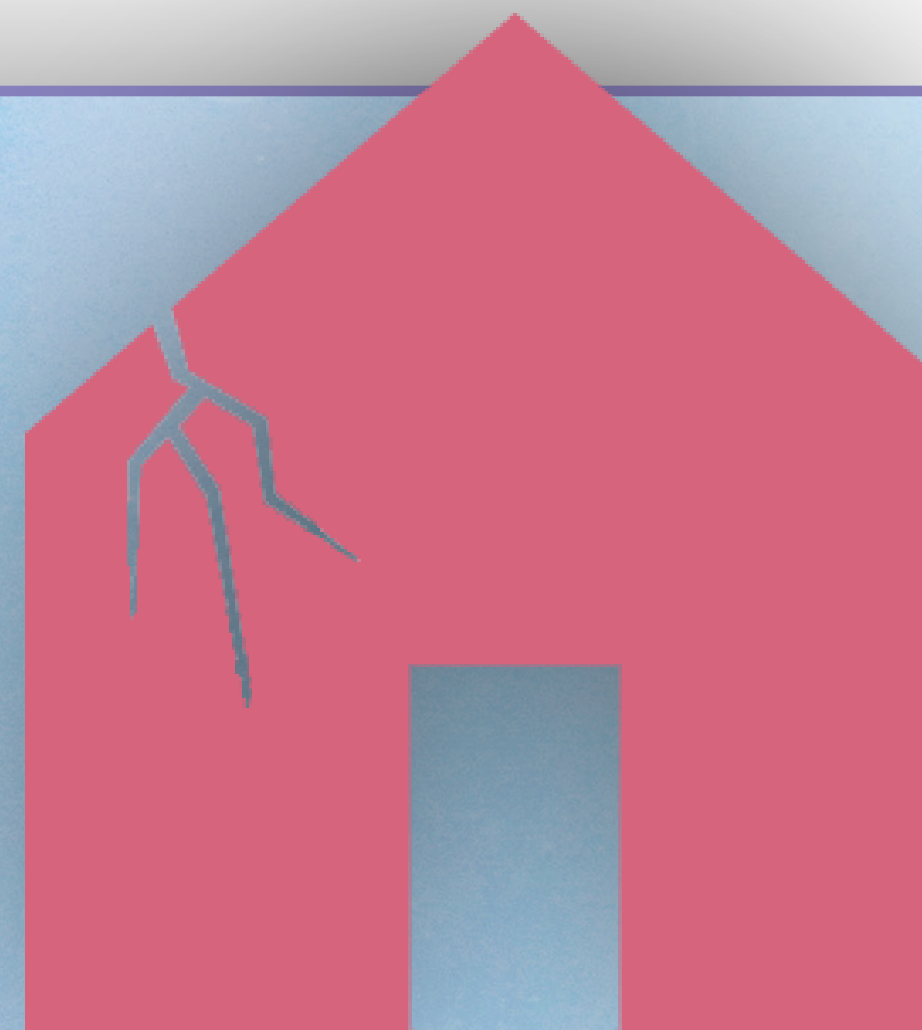
Marriage is not a vehicle for self-actualization. If we see it as such, we will be disillusioned and disappointed. Marriage is an embedded picture of the Gospel, a Gospel tract.

Russell Moore

Women are called to submit to their own husbands as is fitting in the Lord. Men are called to love their wives as Christ loves the Church. Who has the more difficult calling?

Video

Children



Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Ephesians 6:1

“Honor your father and mother,” — which is the first commandment with promise —

“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Ephesians 6:3

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:4

Parents who do not teach their children to obey God's appointed authorities prepare them for a life out of step with God's Word — a life out of step with the very Gospel they desire to emphasize.

John Piper

Laissez-faire parenting does not produce gracious, humble children. It produces brats. They are neither fun to be around, nor happy themselves. They are free the way a boat without a rudder is free.

John Piper

Parents



The prospect for the family
can be refreshingly hopeful.



The strength of the home is rooted in the strength of the marriage. The strength of the relationship between parents and their children is rooted in the strength of the marriage.

Randy Stinson

Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise,

Ephesians 5:15

making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:16

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Ephesians 5:17

*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery.
Instead, be filled with the Spirit*

Ephesians 5:18

Video

Family matters because it is
God's Gospel greenhouse.

