

**Sermon ~ Sunday, May 30, 2021 by Pastor Dwight Benoit**

**Text: Colossians 3: 18-21**

**Title: "You must have HOPE!"**

[A mother, Mrs. Hopke, laid in her bed fighting to stay alive to see her daughter's wedding. *Incurably ill* for the past five years, Mrs. Hopke had been indirectly responsible for the meeting about a year ago of her daughter Rose Marie, twenty, and her intended husband, Arthur Woodrow Hudson, twenty-six.

Rose Marie had acted as *nurse* and *housekeeper* to her bedfast mother. Yet, before this, while buying medicine, Mrs. Hopke met, Hudson, a pharmacist in the local drugstore. Falling in love with Arthur, she knew he was the one for her daughter. It was on from there... from her bed and *debilitating sickness*, the *hope* of being at her daughter's Wedding, kept Mrs. Hopke alive.

On another *hopeful* Day, this 55-year-old mother, heard the couple entering the house *laughing* and *talking* about the April 4<sup>th</sup> Wedding. She heard them enter the next room. Their chatter ended in three blasts from a shotgun.

The Police said [*Mr.*] Hopke, opposed of the marriage, wanted *his* daughter to care for her mother. He became enraged at reading the wedding notice in the Newspaper, shot the couple, then turned the gun on himself.

Rose Maire was taken to one hospital where she was gravely wounded but survived. But Mrs. Hopke her mother was taken to another hospital, where she from shock and her illness, died.]

Mrs. Hopke had been living on the "hope" in her family. When it was gone, she could no longer live. Point: No one, none of us, nor our families, live without "HOPE!" "HOPE," hovers about in the heart of our **CHRISTian Faith**. Hear what **GOD** *through* the Apostle Paul says to the **CHRISTIANS** at Colosse...

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands,  
As it is fit in **The LORD**.

Husbands, love *your* wives, and be not bitter against them.

Children obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well-pleasing unto **The LORD**.

Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged."

In each of these four verses, there are four relationships, and the theme of "HOPE" is present. If *wives*, *husbands*, *children*, and *fathers*, try to do what **GOD** *through* Paul is saying, they will find "HOPE" in their families. How important is it to have "HOPE" in our families??? So glad you asked!

\* "HOPE" is the *Life of a Marriage*. Couples must believe in their marriage if a *marriage* is to survive. When *marriages* in up in the Counselors Office or in the Divorce Courts ninety-nine- and one-half percent, it is because they have lost "HOPE." When "HOPE" is lacking, families are not able to function.

*Disillusionment* is another common factor. Couples get *married* expecting certain things to happen, and when they do not, *disillusionment* sets in. "You don't know what it's like to be *married* to this man, or to this woman." "You weren't like that before we were *married*."

In **GOD** *through* Paul prescription for family Life, **HE** tells family members how to have "HOPE" in their families. "HOPE" in each family teaches how to look at the positive efforts of the other person. Most are conscious of the failures of others than their efforts to do right. Even if, the failures supersede the positives, we must look through "HOPE" eyes.

**"HOPE"** accepts others for who they are. The basic need of every one of us is to be accepted and loved. Accept one another for what they are instead of rejecting them or trying to make them into what we want them to be. Accept the bad as well as the good. This does not mean we shouldn't try to change and grow them in The Right Way, but not from pressure of another person.

When **GOD** through the Apostle Paul says, "Wives be subject to your husbands, as it is fitting in **The LORD,**" **HE** used a special kind of *verb*. This *verb* means "decide for yourselves that you can be under the 'leadership' of (your husband)." **HE** did not say, "Be *subjected*." It is an attitude the wife must develop for herself, not one that the husband demands.

**"HOPE,"** then, is the very Life of the *Marriage*.

\* **"HOPE"** is the Growth of a Family. Parents can help their children to grow with **"HOPE!"** Parents, if you can see yourselves as "*teachers,*" you will take a more patient and longer look at the lessons you teach your children. A *good teacher* knows that a student will not always learn something this first time he or she is shown. A *good teacher* uses reinforcement techniques. It is difficult for parent, especially for some Fathers, to realize that they are their children's *teachers*.

We *teach* by what we *say!* We *teach* more by what we *show!* These can not conflict! We must *teach* we can accept failures but not total failure! **JESUS taught** in **HIS** parable of The Prodigal Son, that the Father is one who can accept failure and build something out of his son, despite failure. Do not impose your expectations on your child and take away **"HOPE!"**

"Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged." In other words, "don't vent your emotions on your children in such a way that they become discouraged from trying. If all our expectation of our children is the same as we expect for ourselves (In spite of our own failures), our children will very soon learn that they are in an impossible contest and give up.

Let me conclude by simply saying, "You must Have **HOPE!"** in the **CHRISTian** Family, **The SOURCE of HOPE is JESUS CHRIST!** **JESUS** accepts us as we are, but **JESUS** changes us into who we ought to be! When a Family let **CHRIST** come into their lives, their homes, the Family members share a close bond that helps keep them on the same track. **CHRIST, The SOURCE of HOPE** brings the possibilities of a new start. "Behold, I make all things new." I Hasten to say,

"The only **HOPE** we have is in **CHRIST JESUS!**  
The only **ONE** to help us in this world of turmoil.  
Though Satan's foes oppress, and our hearts seems distressed,  
Oh, but we have this **HOPE**, and it is in **JESUS!**

The only **HOPE** we have is in **CHRIST JESUS!**  
The future is great, **LORD**, it's this old, old world!  
But the future, it may come, with such a heavy weight.  
Oh, oh, but we have this **HOPE**, and it's **JESUS! JESUS! JESUS!**

**The ONE WHO** cares enough to salve our soul's grief.  
Though we may suffer pain, and feel we have not gain,  
Oh, but we have this **HOPE**, and it is in **JESUS! JESUS! CHRIST JESUS!**

**"You must have HOPE!"**