

IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*



IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will servc the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*



IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*



IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will servc the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*



IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will servc the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*



IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will servc the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*



IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*



IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?



7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will servc the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?



7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*



IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will servc the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*



IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will servc the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?



7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*



IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer *(possibly each person involved in the study)* thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?

INTO THE WORD

*Romans 14:7-9 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Why will the Christian's definition of roles most likely differ from the world's definition?
  
2. What, in your opinion, would be the most significant difference?
  
3. Summarize what this passage says about our roles?

11. Consider John 13:1-15. How does Jesus' example help us as we attempt to be "leaders" in our families? How does it accuse us?
  
12. A man's relationship to his wife is compared to Jesus' relationship with and his love for the Church. Jesus died for the Church. What does that mean to you if you are a husband? If you are a wife?
  
13. Someone once said, "Christian families are not perfect – but they are forgiven." Agree?
  
14. What is important about that insight?

**CONSTANTLY FORGIVE**

"For the love among Christians should be the same kind of love as that of every member of the body for every other one, as Paul often says, each one accepting the faults of the other, sympathizing with them, bearing and removing them, and doing everything possible to help him. Hence the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the most important of all, both for us personally and for our relations."

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Gather the family together and read John 13:1-15 out loud.

Take turns coming up with different ways that you can be a servant to each other.

Lovingly share areas where you think you or a family member can improve. *(Don't argue. Look at yourself. Remember, we always find it easier to find "fault" in someone else more than ourselves.)*

If you live alone, try to come up with different ways to serve others and who those "others" might be.

Close with a prayer (possibly each person involved in the study) thanking God for your families or for individual members of the family.

7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*



IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will servc the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?



7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

IN CLOSING

CHRISTIAN HOME

**506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
 2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all with -  
 3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
 4 Blest such a house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
 5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol -  
 in have set their mind To trust their God and serve  
 chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care  
 joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives  
 pro - mise make and say: Though all the world for - sake



ly his— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
 him still And do in all his ho - ly will.  
 or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
 is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.  
 his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1715–84, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt;  
*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.  
 Tune: WO GOTT ZUM HAUS (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

**Paul's Word about Roles**

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A movie entitled *Mr. Mom* (1983) told the story of a man and woman who switched family roles. When the man lost his job, the woman went to work outside the home. While Dad took the children to school and cleaned the house, Mom went to the office and attended business meetings. The reversal of roles worked well for a little while, but in time, Mom wanted out of her job and back in the house and Dad wanted out of the house and back in a job.

You can find the movie for free on Roku®. It's a comedy. The issue of role definition, however, is not at all funny. We hear people lament that "men don't know how to be men anymore and women don't know how to be women." Many things we used to take for granted about men and women are not taken for granted any longer.

Not all that long ago, roles seemed to be much more clearly defined and unquestioned. It was Dad's job to make money and Mom's job to take care of children and keep the house. Today there are few men and women who fit that mold perfectly. Changes in our values, demands of a difficult economy, the increase in the divorce rate and the rise of feminism are just some of the factors contributing to the redefining and reshaping of roles.

1. List some of the difficulties for individuals and families brought on by the changing roles of men and women in society.
  
2. List some of the positive effects of the changing roles of men and women in society and in marriage.
  
3. What do our lists say about our understanding of the changing roles in our world today?



7. In the discussion of roles, what issue usually creates the most disagreement?
8. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, 28. What does it mean to you to know that Christ has called us to be “subject” to one another?

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

9. What does it mean to see a wife’s “submissiveness” as a part of this call to be subject?
10. What does it mean to see a husband’s “submissiveness” as part of this call to love?

*Romans 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

4. Someone once said, “The problem in marriage is not so much about love as about power.” Agree? Disagree? Why?

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

5. What would it mean to a family if each person saw himself or herself as a “servant”?

6. In the following passages, Paul specifically addresses the roles of people in families. Some of what he says is very easy to accept; some is not so easy. As we look at these passages, let's not lose sight of what we have already studied, but put it all together. Build Paul's definition of what the following people should be like.

a. Men / Husbands / Fathers

b. Women / Wives / Mothers

c. Children

*Titus 2:1-6 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

*<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*

*<sup>1</sup> Timothy 5:3-8 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*Colossians 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*