

COLOSSIANS 3:18-25

Introduction: THE CHRISTIAN HOME

*Apostle Paul finishes out Chapter 3 by giving a series of advising and encouraging words to the members of the Christian household. It is fair to note also, how Paul has put in a special order for the members of the home: Wives, Husbands, Children, Fathers, and then Servants and Masters - in that order.

*This is the purpose of order in the home - God considered the home to be a very important force in the Christian life. The family unit was designed by God for the preservation of life.

*When less and less attention is devoted to the home, then eventually our civilization will deteriorate rapidly.

*The first order that Paul addresses is to the wives, starting in verse 18.

Colossians 3:18 - Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

1. According to God's divine plan, the husband is the head of the house. The woman has been given the place of submission to her husband. She is not to dominate or to lead, but to follow his leadership.
 - a. There is one exception though - that is if the husband were to require her to do something that is contrary to the Word of God. God never tells any woman to be in a situation where she would lose her personality or her dignity.
 - b. God wants wives to submit to their husbands as an act of faith in God's plan for the family. This shows how important it is in choosing the right man to marry. If you cannot, then don't marry!
2. She is to submit "as it is fit in the Lord". Submission to her husband is submission to the Lord. Her first loyalty is to the Lord Jesus Christ.

*When a husband might not be what he ought to be, it is much easier at times to be submissive to Christ (Who is more loving) and please God with your life. The husband's and wife's goal is to be what God wants them to be.

Colossians 3:19 - Husbands, love *your* wives, and be not bitter against them.

1. The Apostle Paul does not stop with this advice to wives, but now he goes to the next in line of order: the husband. They are to have the responsibility to "love your wives, and be not bitter against them."

*If these simple divine instructions were followed, then many of the problems of married life would disappear. Homes would be happier in the Lord.
2. In this context, it was not giving the husband the right to beat her down and demand that he should be obeyed. This verse comes down to how much does he love his wife!
 - a. The word "love" in the Greek is "agape", which means the highest form of love.

Ephesians 5:25 - Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

*This denotes the willingness of putting your wife's needs before your own - without demanding anything in return.
 - b. Love is a willingness to devotion and goodness towards your wife. It is as the husband applies love in his relationship to his wife that their marriage becomes stronger and happier in life.

Ephesians 5:21 - Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

3. Paul ends this verse by saying, "be not bitter against your wife". There is no room for a husband to be bitter and always putting her down, making hurtful and cutting remarks. This is especially true while in public!

Ephesians 4:31 - Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

Colossians 3:20 - Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

1. Children are to obey their parents. Especially today, we see so many teenagers rebelling against their parents. Families have been held together by 2 simple principles: authority and obedience.

*This obedience is to be "in all things", which means not only in the things that are agreeable, but also those things that are not so pleasing in life. As parents, it is their job to set godly boundaries to ensure their kids stay within those boundaries.

2. God expects kids to obey mom and dad. They are to do what they are told without arguing, backtalk, or being disrespectful.

Ephesians 6:1-3 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Eph. 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) Eph. 6:3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

*When children disobey, it is the parents' job to use godly discipline on them so they will learn obedience. A parent's responsibility is to not permit, or allow, your child to disobey without consequences.

Proverbs 29:17 - Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

Proverbs 22:15 - Foolishness *is* bound in the heart of a child; *but* the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Proverbs 13:24 - He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

3. We are not talking about abuse, but don't rule out a stinging punishment from time to time. Proverbs 22:6 says, *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

*Parents are to train their children in certain areas of life: In wisdom, physically, socially, and spiritually. Parents must teach their children about Who God is and what He has done for them. If we don't show them, then we are neglecting our role as a parent and leaving our child to a secular society - to invite Satan and his evil devices to succeed.

4. Challenge your kids to a dedication to the Lord and show them how important their salvation is in their life.

2 Timothy 3:15 - And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

*Train your child to recognize the devil's work and how to resist and fight him.

Colossians 3:21 - Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged.

1. You notice that this advice is addressed to "fathers" and not to mothers. Paul here cautions fathers (being the head of the home) about maintaining a proper balance in their dealing with their kids.
2. He is to discipline the child in the right way and not the wrong way.
 - a. You never discipline them in a revengeful way.
Hebrews 12:11 - Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.
 - b. You never discipline with a judgmental or mean spirit.
Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.
 - c. You always discipline in love.
Proverbs 10:12 - Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.
 - d. You never lose control during times of discipline that create anger to provoke you.
Ephesians 6:4 - And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
3. Fathers are not to produce anger when correcting in discipline. The connection should be in love (tough love) and not in rebellion. By doing it the right way, it will help you to keep yourself in check - to be fair and balanced. You will see your children mature in what is right.

Colossians 3:22 - Servants, obey in all things *your* masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

1. This verse shows the relationship between servants and their masters. In today's world, this is relevant to employers and their employees.
2. From this verse 22 to the end of this chapter, the Spirit of God addresses bondservants or slaves. These positions were embedded in the culture of Biblical times. It was extremely common because one half of the Roman Empire were slaves. Most households had several slaves, which formed an important part of the economy.
3. It is also important to understand that this was not a racial issue, but an issue of one's social and financial status. It was not uncommon for even doctors and lawyers to be operating under servanthood to another person.

*Many were servants because they had sold themselves to be servants so they could provide for their families.
4. Paul taught that there are no social distinctions in the Body of Christ.
Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.
5. Bondservants are told to obey in all things those who are their masters according to the flesh. But, remember, we have another Master Who is above all and sees all.

*Paul's advice was not for servants to rebel, but rather for them to be respectful and obedient. They were to serve and work as if Jesus Christ was their boss.

6. "Eyeservice" is the work done only when the master is watching. Christian slaves were to work hard even when their owners were not watching. We are not to be man pleasers, but to have a pure heart of only pleasing our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:5-7 - Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Eph. 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; Eph. 6:7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

<u>Colossians 3:23</u> - And whatsoever ye do, do <i>it</i> heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

1. This says that whatever you do in life, do it from the heart (the soul). This applies to everything in life. The Colossian believers were to do their job with the right attitude and the right spirit. They were not just looking for human approval, but to be focused on pleasing God in everything.
2. This verse teaches us a very important lesson that the simplest of service can be glorified by carrying it out as to the Lord. This verse talks about our "passion" or enthusiasm unto the Lord.
3. Passion is all about a basic mindset and a right heart attitude for embracing life - to stay positive in your thinking.
 - a. Passionate people live with the "pedal to the metal" by holding nothing back. Their purpose in life is defined in their passion doing what they love.
 - b. If you are not passionate about what you are doing, then you will not reach your God-given potential and talent.
4. Whatsoever we do in life - whether you are a teacher, electrician, factory worker, custodian, plumber, etc.- do it with enthusiasm and passion. Then you will feel the satisfaction in your life.

Colossians 3:17 - And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

<u>Colossians 3:24</u> - Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

1. Paul reminds them that our inheritance is not earthly - it is heavenly. Since we represent the Lord Jesus Christ down here upon the earth, then He is going to ask that His representatives be faithful.
 - a. Remember the next time we are called upon to do something that we dislike - whether at work, in the home, or in the church - do it with a Christ-like mentality.
 - b. Our hard, diligent work with our godly attitude may go unnoticed by our earthly boss, but it will not go unnoticed by God.

Colossians 3:25 - But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

1. Paul is saying that Christ is going to straighten out everything in your life that we don't straighten out here on earth.

*Paul could be encouraging them if they received wrong from unjust masters/employers. They can know that God will take care of them in due time.

2. Paul makes it clear, if employees receive wrong from their employers - God will take care of both. See Romans 2:6 - *Who will render to every man according to his deeds.*

3. When employers have wronged us, or taken advantage of us, we are not to become bitter. We are to leave it with the Lord. We serve Christ and not men. We will have to give an account to the Lord one day at the Judgment Seat.

Romans 14:11-12 - For it is written, *As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.* Rom. 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

**Next week, Chapter 4 closes with having fellowship with believers and the believer's prayer life. Paul turns his attention to the local assembly church and how prayer can be so powerful.