

Colossians 3:18-4:1

Christ Honoring Relationships

Section 1: 3.18-19 – Wives and Husbands

Short. To the point. Yet, extremely complicated to execute.

We are given more details about the rolls of the wives and husbands from Ephesians 5:22-33 (CSB).

Wives:

- Submit to your husbands as to the Lord.
- 1 Corinthians 11:3; 14:34-35; 1 Timothy 2:11-14; Titus 2:5; 1 Peter 3:6
- Submission is not:
 - Implying the wife is less valuable than the husband. Gal. 3:28.
 - Unquestioned obedience. Wives do not violate the Word of God, even if the husband desires it.
 - Being a slave. Wives are submissive in what should be a loving relationship.
- Submission will look different based on the husband's faith relationship with our heavenly Father: for example, if he is either (1) faithful, (2) half-hearted or (3) a non-believer.
- Ultimately, submission in this passage and in Ephesians is commanded. This isn't a suggested order. This is the God glorifying order for the home. The husband is the Christ-exalting leader of the marriage. Therefore, he is responsible to pick the church, the place the family calls home, goals of the family and the like.

Husbands

- Love your wives just as Christ loved the church.
 - This is an unconditional, ongoing love as described in 1 Corinthians 13. Love in action.
 - This kind of love is not emotional or conditional...it is a choice...a covenant type of love.
- Make her holy, cleansing her with the washing by the Word.
- Present her in splendor without spot or wrinkle...holy and blameless.
- Love your wives as you love yourselves.
- Provide and care for your wife.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ What are the characteristics of a biblical wife?
- ❖ What are the characteristics of a biblical husband?
- ❖ Why is it important to have a biblical view of a husband and wife?

Section 2: 3.20-21 – Children and Fathers

Children...obedience to your parents is preparing you for a life of obedience to the Lord.

- Disobedience to parents is a sign of ungodliness. 2 Tim. 3:2; Rom. 1:30.
- In Luke 12:51-53, Jesus gives the only case in which children are permitted to disobey their parents...when their instructions violate the Word of God.

Parenting is amazing and awful at the same time. So much struggle, laughter, pain, joy, happiness, sadness...it's an emotional roller coaster.

Both parents are extremely important but study after study seems to be confirming that “so goes the father...so goes the family”.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ What are the characteristics of a biblical family?
- ❖ Why is the biblical family under attack?
- ❖ What are the responsibilities of a biblical parent?

Section 3: 3.22 & 4:1 – Work

This section outlining a relationship between a slave and a master teaches us a lot about our attitude. How do you respond to difficult positions or jobs? Do you always have a good attitude while working?

The saying “good help is hard to find” seems to be ringing louder and louder these days. Why? Lack of work ethic. Believers should be the hardest workers. Why? Because we are working, not primarily for a pay check or praise but to glorify God in all we do. God loves work ethic. Laziness to condemned many times throughout the Scriptures.

How do we know that God loves a strong work ethic? For example: even before sin had entered the world God expected Adam and Eve to have a work ethic. Genesis 2:15 (CSB): *¹⁵The Lord God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.*

Whatever work relationship you find yourself in...seek to glorify God. Work hard for the glory of God.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ How would you rate your work ethic?
- ❖ Why is a strong work ethic important?

Section 4: 3.23-25 – The Why

Whether you are a husband, wife, child, father, mother, master or slave...do it with all your heart unto the Lord. We should see our circumstances and positions in life as opportunities to glorify the Lord.

Husbands...your primary role is to glorify the Lord. The primary reason you provide, take out the trash, maintain a home and pay the bills is to glorify God.

Wives...your primary role is to glorify the Lord. The primary reason you submit, provide, encourage and turn a house into a home is to glorify God.

Workers...your primary role is to glorify the Lord. The primary reason you show up on time, work hard, make the people around you better, never complain and show respect to your boss is to glorify God.

When your primary goal in all circumstances is to glorify God...the rest will take care of itself.

You serve the Lord Christ. You are not the master of your ship. You are not the dreamer of your destiny. You are a faithful servant of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit and continually seek out opportunities to glorify the Lord.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is it important to remember that your primary role in all circumstance is to glorify God?
- ❖ We should all submit to God. How can a believer prepare his heart each day to submit to the Lordship of Christ?