

Christ Revealed through Colossians

Colossians chapter 3:18-4:6, 7-18

Opening: In our last study we saw lots of practical counsel on living the Christian life. Here we're going to see a picture of healthy Family relationships, work relationships, our relationship with God through prayer, and our relationship to those who don't know Christ.

1. Relationships within the Family (v.18-21)

a. Husband/wife (v.18,19)

i. **Does God create different things with a specific place and function? (Genesis 1:15-18). Are both needed? Is one better than other?** "husband is the head of the wife, even as..." (Ephesians 5:23) (rib...side, equal, but different)

1. **Genesis 35:2** (Jacob—priest of household)

ii. "husbands love your wives..." (Ephesians 5:25) (final decision—husband—love is not "self serving"—not to be overbearing) (G and G—divorce by now?) *Jesus teaches us to have "servant leadership", not self-serving pride (See Matthew 20:25-28)*

iii. **Should one ever listen to his wife's advice?** (Certainly!) (ex. Pilate; Son of Belial)

b. Children/parents (v.20,21) ("in the Lord" Eph. 6:1-3) (Matt. 15:4,5,9—Jesus' day)

2. Relationships within the workplace (v.22-4:1)

a. Employees: Doing your work honestly with a cheerful heart. (whether insulation, or...).
"the best time to be honest is when no one is looking"

b. Employers: Fair wages. Just. **"weep and howl ye..." (James 5:1-5)** "will plead the cause"

c. **Leviticus 23:22**—God always made provision for the poor.

d. **Leviticus 19:13**—Pay on time. (Ex. My Family—tight around the end of the month)

3. Relationship with God through Prayer (v.2-4)

a. "continue in prayer...**watch** (for *specific* answers)...w/thanks" (thanksgiving is FAITH)

b. **More answered prayer.** EGW—"press your petitions before God" (angel said)

c. **Ask** "ye have not because..." (James 4:2) (people selfishly try all the wrong methods)

d. **James 4:3** "ye ask amiss" ///According to His will (**1 John 5:14, 15**) (ex. Soul winning)
PRAY INTELLIGENTLY. Don't ask God to do something He won't (like force the will)

e. **"fervent prayer of a righteous man"** (James 5:16) pray together. "if two... agree"(Matt. 18:19) **Obedience:** "If I regard iniquity in my heart..." (Psalms 66:18; Proverbs 28:9)

f. Believe (Mark 11:24) **"believe, ye shall receive them..." Claim** promises too.

4. Sharing Christ through daily interactions (v.5, 6) (relationship w/unbelievers)

a. People will question you if you are different or know your Bible. "Study to show..." (2 Timothy 2:15)

b. "Grace" (smooth/appropriate), "Salt" (infectious, a little bit goes a long way)

5. Paul's sign off instructions (v.7-18)

a. (v.10)—mentions a fellow prisoner with Paul.

b. (v.11-13) Laboring in the Lord *"always laboring fervently for you in prayers..."*

c. (v.14) *Luke the Physician is mentioned (he was the writer of Luke and Acts)*

- d. (v.18) *“Remember my bonds...”*—Paul was clearly writing from Prison here. (also v.10).
- e. *All the names in this book are the names of faithful Christians who lived and walked before us. There is much we can learn from their love, labor, trials, and fervent Christian Spirit. Let us follow whichever good examples we can find recorded for us.*

We've looked at relationships within the family, in the workplace, with God through prayer, and towards those who don't know Christ. Paul then directs his attention to greeting those receiving the letter, gives some brief final instructions, and signs off. **Let's pray that in all our daily relationships we will treat people the way Jesus would.**

Words for My Heart:

Will you choose today to receive Jesus Christ into your heart, and to treat others the way Jesus would? _____ *(By God's grace we can grow and learn to treat others with the kind and loving spirit of Jesus Christ)*