

New Relationships Part 2

Colossians 3:20-4:1

Sufficient Series

¹⁸ Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

²⁰ Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

²² Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with **eye service as men-pleasers**, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

4 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.----- **PRAY**

You have probably heard it said before: “He is so heavenly minded – He is no earthly good.”

A) Usually what they mean is he has got his head in the clouds – Or Ultra Spiritual – not relatable

B) So heavenly minded – He is no earthly good!

C) I would suggest that person is not truly being heavenly minded.

You See I think to be the most earthly good – You have to be Heavenly minded.

A) Those who are heavenly minded are going to be the most earthly good!

B) I think Paul the Apostle would agree with that sentiment.

C) Essentially what He is teaching us here in Colossians Chapter 3

This Chapter starts off in the Heavens “Since we have been raised seek those things above, set mind Not earth

A) But the Chapter ends **on earth** - takes us to our most practical daily places – OUR RELATIONSHIPS -

HOME – AND WORK

B) Christianity is meant to be practical - it HAS TO work in real life.

C) Chapter 3 Learned in Christ **New Perspective** Seek those things above..... Set mind

D) Given **New Clothes** – Put off the old man ... New

E) Lives Marked by New Relationships –

- **Marriage – Husband and Wives**
- **Parents and kids –**
- **Employees and Employers**

Now when we read the verses in our text today nothing hits us as being abnormal – because we are familiar.

A) But what Paul is saying here would have been considered **RADICAL NEW THINKING** – especially for men

B) Paul’s teaching was challenging the Cultural norms of ancient Rome

Background into the Culture

A) Rome was the Dominant influence in the world and Male Dominance was written into Roman Law.

B) Men were the **absolute heads of their households**.

1) **Masters** they could beat and kill their slaves.

C) A **husband** could discard his wife and **a father** could beat or even kill his children with no 2nd thought - And with no recourse whatsoever.

1) It was a Brutal society

Roman mindset toward women said: *We have prostitutes for sexual pleasure. We have female slaves to take care of our bodies and we have wives to bear children and to take care of the house.*

A) So literally under Roman Law a Husband was obligated to provide a roof over his wife’s head and the opportunity for her to bear Children. –

B)He didn't owe her **DATE NIGHTS – ROMANTIC DINNERS – Love Language – Marriage conf. – NOTHING LIKE THAT**

1)Roof and the opportunity to bear kids – meaning he needed to sleep with her sometimes.

C)Women were seen AS incomplete men. – The common Roman prayer to the gods

“Thank you that I am a Greek and not a Barbarian, that I am a human and not an animal and most of all that I am a MAN & NOT A WOMAN.”

D)It was a Brutal culture where A **wife** was obligated to submit to her Husband/

- **Children** were expected and obligated under Roman law to obey their parents.
- **Slaves** were obligated to obey their masters!

E)So when Paul says to **HUSBANDS LOVE YOUR WIVES** that was a **RADICAL CHANGE** IN the way they would approach that relationship

Fathers don't provoke your Children – that was a Radical new thinking because it was the norm to be hard on them.

A)Masters treat your Slaves fair and Just – that was unheard of in their thinking – because the norm was **to be harsh – drive and push.**

B)The Radical new thought for the men – as Husbands, Fathers and Masters was **in the way they were to treat their wives, Children and Slaves**

C)The Radical new thought for the women, the children, and the Slaves was the way they were **to approach** what they had **already been doing.**

Wife: Submit – Duh – Already doing that.

A)Submit *as is fitting* in the Lord.

B)Last week at our Vista Way Campus we talked about – what that meant exactly

C)Wife is given this unique title: Gen. 2:18 Helper

1) Ezer Kneqdo – Title only used of God – except in Gen. 2:18 where it is used of the wife. –

D)The Radical new thought that Paul is drawing upon IN all these **NEW RELATIONSHIPS** was **THE How and the Why.**

With that in mind let's consider His Word to Children:

V.20 Children, obey your parents in all things, {That was not a new thing – Norm – Expected But then Paul adds -

“for this is well pleasing to the Lord.”

A)Here is the Reason – It pleases the Lord

In Essence Paul is taking us back to V.17 – Connecting verse in this section: *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

A)You do what you are called to do – In His Name

1)This goal – Please God

B)The Greek word for “Child” is **“teknon”** and it means anyone regardless of age who is under a parent's care

C)In others word – if you live under the care of your parents, under their roof, eat their food, drink their water - You are “teknon”

D)And God's word to teknon's is that they would obey their parents

1)Okay - What does that mean????

Obey has to do with action, and honor/ attitude

A)This word *obey* is, *“stand under” or to Listen under* - that is, to listen with attentiveness and to respond positively to what is heard.

B)It means to be under **another's authority**, would apply to a soldier in obeying his orders.

C)Speaks of **valuing** the words being spoken and then following them!

It is interesting how Children can go through different phases. Most of us probably as kids went through these as well

A)Been called the Five Phases of Childhood:

1st Phase: Young adolescent – Parents can do no wrong – they know everything – smartest guy/gal in the world

2nd Phase: Puberty – Parents Know a lot but not everything

3rd Phase: Teen yrs – Parents don't know anything –

4th Phase: Early 20's – Parents know more than I thought

5th Phase: They become a parent – My parents know everything again

C) It kind of goes full circle: {Key is not to get frustrated especially during phase three

The balancing act we parents attempt is convincing our children:

A) They **are loved more than they can imagine.** But that **the world does not revolve around them."**

B) **Our culture has created a mindset** – that has led to this narcissistic – approach toward life in our children

1) Everything is about me! – My happiness – My goals – My wants – my desires.

C) **Social media has magnified this greatly – How many Facebook friends, Instagram followers.**

1) How many people **like my Status.**

D) Sometimes – I see a post – I am at IN-N-OUT eating a Double/Double – **I think who cares –**

1) Then all these people comment on it – I guess a lot of people do

E) Feeds into this mindset – Everything is about me! – My happiness – My goals – My wants – my desires.

What Paul says here: Radically Challenges that mentality – NO EVERYTHING IS ABOUT GOD! – HIS PLEASURE – HIS GLORY

A) That is at the heart of what Paul is saying to Children

B) Children Obey – why? It pleases the Lord – that is what you are to be living for.

C) **Sometimes teen agers complain – My parents just don't understand they are way too strict – So hard to obey - THINK ABOUT JESUS**

D) If there was ever a child who knew more than His parents it was Jesus.

Luke 2:51-52 **Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.**

When Jesus finally stepped out of his Parents home to begin his public ministry

A) **Baptism: MY SON IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED**

B) That is really the point: **You obey your parents because it is well pleasing to God**

C) Paul was challenging His readers: Do what you have always been doing – but do it with a whole NEW MOTIVE: please God

D) Parents if we can teach our children how to do that and approach life from that perspective –

1) **Change everything – WORLD CHANGERS**

E) Young people living with a whole new perspective

A WORD TO FATHERS

²¹ **Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.**

A) Ephesians adds the phrase, "to wrath" – do not provoke them to wrath or **discouragement-**

B) **REALLY A Word to both Parents – Mom you are not off the hook**

C) **See the word – Paul uses for Fathers in the Greek is actually also translated Parents**

B) The exact same Greek word is used for parents in Hebrews 11:23 "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw *he was* a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command." – Hebrews 11:23

Note: The heart of God in this: Parents don't provoke your children to wrath lest they become discouraged: Parents See the Big Picture

A) You have a role to play in helping shape your child's view of God!

B) They are learning how to relate to God as they relate to YOU!

1) That is a huge responsibility

C) They are to honor and obey you – because they are learning to honor and obey the Lord

1) So properly representing the Lord to OUR kids is of the utmost importance

D) So what does this really mean, “do not provoke them?”

1) Mean I should never cause my child to become upset? – NO

To “provoke” means to needlessly irritate them

A) Key word in that definition is “Needlessly”

B) See as a parents – You are called to lead and to train –

1) Means sometimes – Say No – You can't –

C) Your kids will get Mad – bummed out

1) That is ok – Needed – you are doing the right thing

D) Paul Says don't needlessly Provoke them!

5 Ways We Can needlessly provoke our kids

#1 – By playing favorites

A) Do you remember the problems it caused in the book of Genesis when Isaac favored Esau – and Rebekah Jacob

B) Think Jacob would have learned – he did the same with Joseph – Brothers so resented him

1) David did the same with His kids – Always a mess

C) Your house: When one child is favored or gets special or more attention the others are provoked – irritated – can grow resentful

D) Amanda Spoiled {Made all our mistakes with the first two – 3rd one came along 5 yrs later –

1) We had the parent thing more figured out!

5 Ways We Can needlessly provoke our kids

#1 – By playing favorites

#2 – By forcing them to be something they are not

A) You see it all the time, dad forcing their kids into athletics to live out their own failed dreams through their kids

B) Parents listen - Kids are not blank slates – they come with many ingrained individual gifts from God

1) Part of being a parent is to recognize HOW God has gifted them and WHAT HE has called them to be

Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it”

C) This is one of the most well known and I believe miss-understood verses on parenting –

1) Problem: we put the emphases on the word “Way”

Train that child up in the way – like there is one cookie cutter way for every child – You who have multiple kids know that isn't true

B) We put the emphases on the word way, usually we are thinking – THE WAY OF THE LORD! –

1) Being a Christian – AND that is important

C) But the meaning here is much broader:

1) The Hebrew puts the emphasis on the word “He – the way He should go

In fact Matthew Henry translates this verse – “Train up a child according to His capabilities” – Matthew Henry

A) Listen our Job as Parents is to help our kids discover how God has gifted them and blessed them and train and encourage them in that way.

B) When My Son Aaron was born – I of course was thrilled to have a Son

C) And I wanted Aaron to be an Athlete because I was an athlete.

1) My Dad and I bonded through athletics – I wanted me and my Son to bond through Sports.

And I can honestly say that Aaron had some natural talent as an athlete

A)Strong: Limber – Great hand eye coordination – Hitting as a 5 year old

B)You know what he lacked: Interest – He just thought sports was boring

C)God made him with this creative mind.

More creativity in his pinky than I do in my whole body.

A)His mind gravitated in that direction {Build things

B)I had to be willing to say: **Ok not an athlete – and Encourage him in that other direction.**

C)**Willing to enter his world - Try to understand things that seemed goofy to me**

D)Now I see him using all of that Creativity to serve Jesus – Teaching kids

1)Building websites for Churches and Missionaries

E)Train them according to their Bent – their capabilities – don't try to force them into being

5 Ways We Can needlessly provoke our kids

#1 – By playing favorites

#2 – By forcing them to be something they are not

#3 – **By Disciplining them in Anger.**

A)**Ever lose your temper? Ever lash out ?**

B)Ask for forgiveness – {Sorry for the way -

C)**Hurts me more than it hurts you.** – Ridiculous

1)If you enjoy Discipline – You have a problem

5 Ways We Can needlessly provoke our kids

#1 – By playing favorites

#2 – By forcing them to be something they are not

#3 – **By Disciplining them in Anger.**

#4 – **By failing to love and affirm them.**

John Newton, the great preacher and hymn-writer, who experienced such a wretched life before turning to Christ, said,

“I know that my father loved me—but he did not seem to wish me to see it. –

A)Can I ask you – do your kids know you love them?

1)Can I ask you another question – how do they know?

B)Studies have been done – Power of affirmation in our kids

1)And the impact of physical affection especially from DADS – HUGE

C)**Just not me – My Dad wasn't so I am not – Listen – Jesus didn't save you to keep you the way that you are**

1)ROMANS 8:29 – MAKE YOU LIKE JESUS

D)Jesus loved kids – little children loved to be in his arms – KIDS LOVED JESUS.

SOME DADS -Always Critical – always pushing

A)My Dad – my one hitter – Why did I strike out – I was so mad

B)If my Dad always did that – I think I would have

C)Parents Love and affirm

5 Ways We Can needlessly provoke our kids

#1 – By playing favorites

#2 – By forcing them to be something they are not

#3 – **By Disciplining them in Anger.**

#4 – **By failing to love and affirm them.**

#5 – **By being a Hypocrite.**

A)**Do as I SAY not as I DO:**

B)When I was a Youth Pastor – that was the number one thing that frustrated Kids –

1)Parents not living their faith - **Hypocrites**

C)Don't talk about Devotions – Model it – Don't talk about going to Church - Model it

D)**Love the body of Christ**– Don't talk about people or issues in the church in front of your kids

E) Kids grow up and don't like the body of Christ
– Wonder why?

1) Been listening to you for years tear the Bride apart

A Word to parents – Don't provoke... Don't discourage

A Word for Employees – Colossians 3:22-24

²² Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with **eye service as men-pleasers**, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

A) Written to slaves – there were over 60 millions in the Roman Empire!

B) It was a huge part of their culture!

1) Important to note that the Bible never condones slavery – but it does recognize it as a part of society

C) The Gospel challenges that mentality

1) Jesus died for sinners – slave and Free

What Paul says to Slaves and Master – gives us insight into Employees / Employers

A) Employee V.22 – Do your work **HEARTILY** as unto the Lord – **not with EYE SERVICE**

B) NOT to be a man pleaser – Boss is watching – better work hard

1) Always remembering **the BIG BOSS – THE LORD IS** watching – always doing best – not cutting corners etc.

C) I WANT TO PLEASE GOD – I WANT TO GLORIFY HIM!

1) Why I exist – He saved me – grateful Response

This is why I believe that Christians should be the best and Hardest workers – every company

A) Might not **be the most talented** – but we should have the best Reputations -

B) We are Working for the Lord –

C) Whole new Approach – Don't just work for the paycheck – or work hard when the boss is around

NOTE THIS:

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ

D) Amazing thought – Eternal reward... good worker

MASTERS - Employers

Masters, provide your slaves with what is Just and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

A) IMPLICATION IS this **“YOU HAVE THE SAME MASTER.”**

B) **You are a steward:** You are a boss – been given a position of power – responsibility

C) Answer – to your Master – Judge – Just and Fair

1) Example of Jesus – **SPHERE OF INFLUENCE**