

## Colossians 3:18-4:1 New Relationships

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

A) But the Ch. 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.

We have seen in this 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of our study in the book of Colossians that in Christ

A) We have a new Destiny - that should produce in us a new focus and outlook

If (since) then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

B) Since heaven in his our future and living for eternity in Christ’s Kingdom

1) We are to live our lives now with eternity in View

C) So we have a new Destiny - but we have also seen that we have a NEW IDENTITY

1) Alive in Christ

D) We are those who have been made alive in Christ - we have put off the old man - put on the new.

That all adds up to the reality - that we are to live with a NEW APPROACH in our relationships.

A) We pick it up tonight in V.18

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 eyeservice, 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

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

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

B) Paul’s teaching was challenging the Culture norms of accent Rome

C) I think it is IMPORTANT for us to remember the makeup of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Roman culture in which Paul is writing.

**Background in the Culture**

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

B) Men were the absolute heads of their households. and everyone else were considered inferior.

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.

D) 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. –

A husband could discard his wife for any reason.

A) **a father** could beat or even kill his children with no 2<sup>nd</sup> thought -

B) And with no recourse whatsoever.

C) **Masters** they could beat and kill their slaves

D) It was a male-dominated everyone else was subservient society

1) It was a Brutal society

**So what Paul is writing here - would be considered to be a radical new way of thinking about relationships**

A) In Christ we are to treat each other differently

B) To the wives Paul writes - **18 Wives, submit to your own husbands**, (that wasn't new- norm- that was required)

C) What was new was this idea **as is fitting in the Lord**.

**The Radical thought was this: *as is fitting in the Lord***

A) With that simple statement Paul was hitting on a HUGE IMPORTANT TRUTH -

B) Submission to their husbands is connected to their walk and relationship with Jesus

**Wives were to place themselves under their husband not as a matter of Roman law - but voluntarily like the Church is submitted to Jesus.**

A) **Not as a matter of LAW - BUT LOVE NOT OBLIGATION - BUT DEVOTION.**

B) The picture of a Wife submitting and respecting her husband out of Love is fitting to Jesus

C) **as is fitting... Lord** - can also mean that a wife doesn't have to submit to everything

1) Meaning - if your husband is asking you to do something that doesn't jive with scripture

D) You don't have to submit to that - because you are first and foremost submitted to JESUS

E) So the radical thing for women wasn't the command to submit **but how**: **as is fitting... Lord**

**And Culturally speaking The Radical thing - for the Husband was that God would call them to love their wives at all.**

A) Love was optional in their culture -

B) Notice that Paul adds **and not grow bitter**

C) Because the men view their wives as property - they would often grow bitter

1) In the same way that we can grow bitter with a new car or a new job - love it at first

**You love that new car until the new model comes out with even more gadgets**

A) I want that one

B) Car rental in Oregon - warning sensors - WOW

C) But that is how the Roman men approached their wives - Ready for the NEW MODEL

D) Paul says in Christ men - your attitude needs to change -

E) Paul even elevates love in the highest form - Agape

1) God's perfect unconditional sacrificial love

**Ephesians - spelled it out this way: You love them the way Jesus loved the Church**

A) Giving love, a sacrificial love - a love that puts the needs and well-being of someone else above your own

B) Jesus did for us: He put our need for Salvation and reconciliation above his own needs/ comfort

1) Agape is a love that sacrifices

C) Been said: This is what Jesus did for us - he entered into our world and died

D) That is the role of the Husband- enter into your wife's world and die there

**Paul is describing the need of the Husband to DAILY pick up THE CROSS - The Cross Represent?**

A) **IN JESUS CASE** - THE Cross is an instrument of death that brought life to others

B)The Cross was an instrument of death that helped others become who and what they were meant to be –

C)So to love your wife like Christ – is to daily love her in a way that helps her to become who She was meant to be.

**Men we are called to value our wives**

A)Marriage is an Ordered Equality – **God gave to THEM dominion over the garden and animals AND - God said to THEM be fruitful .....**

B)We do that by recognize her strengths and her wisdom

1) you bring her into decisions

C)You recognize her sensitivity to things and to the Lord - you pay attention to that.

D)So Paul is illustrating how our NEW IDENTITY in Christ -

1)Should result in a new approach and mindset in the marriage relationship

**E)But also in the relationships between parents and kids V.20-21**

**V.20<sup>20</sup> 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)**Issue of MOTIVATION – It pleases the Lord**

B)**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.**

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

1)This goal – Please God

**The Greek word for “Child” is “teknon”**

A)and it means anyone regardless of age who is under a parent’s care

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

C)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:

**1<sup>st</sup> – Young adolescent** – Parents can do no wrong – they know everything – smartest guy/gal in the world

**2<sup>nd</sup> Phase: Puberty:** Parents Know a lot but not everything

**3<sup>rd</sup> Phase: Teen yrs** – Parents don’t know anything –

**4<sup>th</sup> Phase: Early 20’s** – Parents know more than I thought

**5<sup>th</sup> Phase:** They become a parent – My parents know everything again

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

**C)Sometimes teen agers complain – My parents just don’t understand they are way too strict –**

**1)So hard to obey**

**I like to say: THINK ABOUT JESUS**

A)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.**

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

1)Baptism: MY SON IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED

C)That was before he did a miracle or ever gave a teaching

1)30 yrs of just living under mom and dad's roof - helping out in dad's carpenter shop

D)After Joseph died - taking care of his mom and bros and sisters

E)Baptism day comes and God says - this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased

**You live in honor and obedience to your parents because it is well pleasing to God**

A)Paul was challenging His readers: Do what you have always been doing –

B)but do it with a whole NEW MOTIVE: please God

**A WORD TO FATHERS**

<sup>21</sup> **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

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

E)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!

**With the help of the Holy Spirit - try not to lash out or discipline in ANGER**

A)If you do - come back later and say - I am sorry

B)Done that many times with my kids - Sorry not for what I said - or for the discipline

1)But the way that I did it - ANGRY

C)Great respect earned in that.

**A Word for Employees – Colossians 3:22-24**

<sup>22</sup> **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.**

<sup>23</sup> **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 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 – in 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. <sup>25</sup> For the wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever wrong he has done, and there is no favoritism.**

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)Answer – to your Master – Judge – **HE IS Just and Fair**

C) So you be just in fair in the way you treat those who are working for you.

**Stewardship**

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

B)Not just a steward of a company or a project  
1)but you are a steward of the lives – under you.

**So Paul is advocating a whole new way of approaching others – dignity and respect**

A)Treating one another the way that Jesus treats us

The goal

B)So we have been given a new Destiny and a new identity in Jesus

C)That should result in a whole new approach to our relationships with others - Home / work

Pray