

Lesson 12 - The New Self in Relationships

I. Colossians 3:18 - 4:1

Introduction: Since your old self has died and you have been raised with Christ to walk a new life, the nature of the relationships you have with other people has been transformed to be godly. This section may seem almost mundane after what has come before it. However, Christian faith is to be lived out in everyday life, including in what may seem to be mundane.

II. Changes in Relationships

A. (3:18) For wives

1. Be _____ to your own husbands as is _____ in the _____
2. What does it mean to be "subject?" (see also Eph. 5:22)
3. What does the word "fitting" suggest about this instruction? In what way is it "fitting?"

B. (3:19) For Husbands

1. Husbands, _____ your wives and do not be _____ against them
2. What does it mean for a husband to love his wife? (see 1 Cor 13:4-8)
3. The word "embittered" means "resentment." What are some ways husbands can keep from resenting their wives? In what way(s) do any of the previous lessons help with this?

4. How do the instructions for the wife and for the husband complement each other? How do they work together for a good relationship that reflects the nature and character of Christ who is our example?

C. (3:20) For Children

1. Children, be _____ to your parents in all things, for this is _____ to the Lord
2. Why should children be obedient to their parents, according to this verse? How is a child's relationship with parents connected to God?

D. (3:21) For Fathers (and parents)

1. Fathers, do not _____ your children, so that they will not _____
2. What does it mean to exasperate your children? How can you avoid it? What effect will this have on your children?

E. (3:22-25) For Slaves

1. Slaves, in all things _____ those who are your masters on earth
2. Not with _____ service as those who merely please men but with _____ of heart, fearing the _____.
3. From the Lord you will receive the _____ of the inheritance. It is the Lord _____ whom you serve.
4. Note: This may seem irrelevant because most of us do not have slaves or servants in our experience. However, there is a timeless principles

underlying these instructions. More can be said from the following:

a. Rom 13:1-7 - On the nature of ruling authority

- 1) We are all to be _____ to the governing authorities
 - This includes policemen, governing powers, supervisors, etc.
- 2) All authority that exists comes from _____ and is therefore established by _____
 - All power, rule, and authority belongs to the Lord, therefore anyone on the earth that wields authority only does so because God grants it.
- 3) The ruling authorities are supposed to be a _____ of God to us for good, an avenger who brings wrath on those who _____
- 4) Resisting governing authority opposes the ordinance of _____
- 5) Mic 9:3-12 - God brings down ruling authorities when they act oppressively, unjustly, or wickedly

b. From these passages you have read, write in your own words some timeless principles concerning those placed in authority.

5. Being a godly employee: If you are an employee, the principles underlying these instructions apply to your workplace.

a. What should be the nature of service at your job and why?

b. How does this transform the way you view your job?

E. (4:1) For Masters

1. Masters grant to your slaves _____ and _____, knowing that you too have a Master in Heaven.
2. If you have people under you as either a supervisor, manager, or business owner, how does this transform the way you do your job?

3. How does "knowing that you too have a Master in Heaven" affect the way you see yourself as one in charge at your job?

III. Challenges

- A. How does any of this go against the grain of popular culture? Does it go against your grain, and in what way?

- B. There seems to be more space devoted to the topic of slaves than any other topic. What does this suggest to you?

- C. How do the following passages help to put perspective on an instruction that seems to go against the grain?
 1. (2:8) - _____
 2. (2:10) - _____
 3. (2:15) - _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Monday	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read Col 12. Spend some time in prayer. Write down any reflections or thoughts between you and God here:3. Complete any part of the previous lesson that is incomplete.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Col 2:1-152. Reflect: What is God communicating to you in these verses?3. Prayer: Share your thoughts with God

<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday
1. Col 2:16-23	1. Read Col 3
2. Reflect: What is God communicating to you in these verses?	2. Reflect: What is God communicating to you in this passage?
3. Prayer: Share your thoughts with God	3. Prayer: Share your thoughts with God

<input type="checkbox"/> Friday	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday
1. Read Col 4	1. Read Col 4
2. Begin to read over and do the next lesson. Write any reflections here.	2. Complete the next lesson. Write any reflections here.
3. Prayer	3. Prayer