

Series: Making the Holidays Holy Days; Sermon: Three
Delivered by: Dr. Josh Moody, senior pastor; Date: December 16, 2018

Bible Text explored: Colossians 3:18-4:1

³¹⁸Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. ²²Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. ⁴¹Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. [ESV]

Review and application:

In this passage Paul instructs Christians about relationships within households, which then typically included masters and servants. For our day, Pastor Moody applied his teachings to both homes and workplaces.

1. The husband/wife relationship (vv. 18-19) is foundational for families. While children and servants are told to obey parents and masters, what word is used to describe how wives are to relate to their husbands?
How does submitting differ from obeying? What role does this word imply for the wife?
What are ways a wife can demonstrate support and respect for her husband?
How does the phrase “as is fitting in the Lord” provide boundaries to the instruction?
Do you see any justification here for husbands browbeating their wives?
2. What are ways in which husbands can communicate love to their wives?
Why is giving vent to anger so damaging to a relationship?
How could you increase the loving-to-critical ratio of things you say to your spouse?
What are some ways husbands can practically serve and honor their wives?
3. When did you last say to your spouse “I am sorry” or “I forgive you”?
Will you ask your spouse how well you are fulfilling your biblical role?
If you are looking to get married, what traits could you work on that would prepare you to become a model spouse?
If you remain single, how does Paul (and Jesus’) model of singleness encourage you that a single person has a full part to play in life and in church?
4. In the parent/child relationship (vv. 20-21), what reason is given for children to obey?
If a parent is asking a child to do something wrong, or not “pleasing to the Lord,” what can a child do?
What are some ways that a child can obey in practice?
5. Why do you think the instruction for parents is directed to fathers?
How can a father be seen by his children as a guide and encourager rather than merely a disciplinarian?
If you are a father, what strength have you discerned in each child, and how could you cultivate that?

6. If you are in a difficult family situation, don't despair. Will you commit to making an appointment with a pastor to explore a solution that is "fitting in the Lord"?
7. In the employer/employee sphere (3:22-4;1), how should being a worker who is a Lord-pleaser differentiate you from those who are people-pleasers?
What is the reward promised to willing workers?
Would you place a card in a spot visible to you reminding you to work with all your heart for the Lord?
8. If you are a supervisor, do you think those in your charge see you as just and fair?

Note: No questions will be issued for the December 23 sermon.