

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

## Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide

Jesus at Home and at Work – Colossians 3:18-25 (SB 03.06.2022)

### COLOSSIANS

#### Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

The family is God's idea, not man's, and for God's idea to work, it must work on His terms, not ours. Plato said that 'The life of a nation is the life of its families written large.' As things go in the home, so they go in the community and as they go in the community, so it goes in the nation. Satan knows this. That's why he continually aims his attacks at our families. He wants to disrupt your family. He wants to destroy your family. He wants to redefine what a family is. Why? Because then he can mess up God's plans. Since good marriages are the foundation of solid families, that's where Paul starts. God wants to bless your marriage but that doesn't mean it's going to be easy. Anyone who says marriage is easy is lying. Good marriages don't happen automatically or accidentally. They require lots of time and attention and prayer and hard work. In these verses, Paul shows us how walking in our God-given roles is one key to experiencing God's blessing in our marriages. Let's get into our study...

1. What spoke to you from Pastor Daniel's sermon this week?
2. What rule did your parents establish that caused you to be punished most often when you were a teenager? Why did you choose to break that rule?
3. If all your material needs could be met without having to work, would you work? Why or why not?

#### Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

#### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 3:18-21

Being submissive to one's husband doesn't diminish the equality a wife has with her husband or destroy her dignity. Christ Himself is the model for equality alongside submissiveness as He was submissive to God yet is completely God Himself.

1. How would you define the word "submissive" as it is used in this passage?
2. Ephesians 5:22 – 23 makes it clear that husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. How would you describe Christ's love for the church? What sacrifices did He make for her?

The husband, though given a role of authority, is not to treat his wife as a "subject." The husband's call is to sacrificial love. Love is meeting the needs of others regardless of the cost to self. Again, the model for this is Christ himself. The parallel passage in Ephesians 5:22–33 makes this clear. The husband is to love his wife "just as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her" (Eph. 5:25). When husbands lead with love, the submission of the wife will more naturally follow. In contrast to the love to which he calls husbands, Paul commands that the Christian husband not be harsh with his wife. He is not to use his authority to be overbearing, critical, or bitter.

3. Why do you think it is "fitting" in God's eyes for a wife who is an equal to her husband to submit to him?
4. According to verse 20, why should children obey their parents?

## **BREAKTHROUGH! in 2022**

5. Why do you think many children, especially teenagers, are more apt to follow the lead of their peers than the expectations of their parents?
6. How can we as parents speak in such a way that we gain a hearing and are clearer in our spoken expectations, so that our children understand and are more likely to respond as requested?

Obedience is the simple process of hearing, understanding, and responding. Once more, Christ provides the example (see John 6:38; 15:10). God is the one who commanded obedience to parents (Exod. 20:12), so naturally obedience pleases the Lord.

7. To exasperate means to provoke or irritate. What kinds of things do fathers do to exasperate their children? Why do fathers do this?

Just as the authority of the husband is not to lead to harshness with the wife, the authority of fathers is not to lead to the kind of behavior that will embitter [their] children. Embitter means “to provoke or irritate.” The Christian father is not to overcorrect or harass his children, or they will become discouraged, which refers to “a listless, sullen resignation—a broken spirit.” To build and encourage our children consistently we should be communicating these three phrases: 1. I love you, 2. I’m proud of you, I’m sorry.

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 3:22-25**

1. What timeless principle in verse 22 relates to being an employee in today’s workplace?
2. How would you contrast “external service” and work that is done with “sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord”?
3. According to verse 22, why work hard if you can get by with minimum effort?

The tendency for all slaves (during the Roman Empire) was to work when the master watched, thereby easing their situations and, perhaps, qualifying them for favors. Paul spoke against that. The slave was to do his work for the Lord, not for his earthly master. The all-seeing eye of the heavenly Master searched the motivations of the heart. This is the first reference to the heavenly Master as the object of all the slave’s work.

4. What motivation does Paul mention in verse 23?

Paul continued the command to genuine service by urging slaves to “work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men.” This was an amazing and transforming command for the Christian slave, he was to do his work under the lordship of Christ.

5. How would it change your work ethic if you viewed God as your primary boss?
6. First Corinthians 10:31 teaches us to do our best in whatever we do. In light of that verse, how can you honor God at work?
7. What motivations for quality work does Paul mention in verse 24?

Our attitude toward work makes a great deal of difference. As Christians we add an eternal dimension to our viewpoint. We know our ultimate reward for a job well done will come from the Lord.

1. What difference might it make in your attitude at work if you view your job as a way of serving the Lord rather than just as a way to make a living?
2. What additional motivation for quality work does Paul mention in verse 25?

Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

We learn how the Lord gives us the power to live as Christians both at home and at work. We see what the Lord will give each of us power to do as we yield to Him. Wives have the power to submit themselves to their husbands. Husbands have the power to love their wives with the love of Christ and not become bitter toward their wives. Children are given the power to obey their parents. Parents are given the power not to cause their children to be filled with anger or discouragement. Here we see that a family must have Christ at the center of that family or they will not be able to do these things. This is why it is important to study the Word of God together as a family. Our love for Christ will cause us to love our families and help our families to grow strong in Christ.

1. What things distract your family from focusing on the goal of pleasing the Lord? What could you do this week to limit these distractions?
2. How often do you talk to your children or your family about spiritual things? About the gospel? Why should fathers lead in this area? What steps could you take this week to make such conversations a more consistent part of your daily life?
3. What positive words of affirmation can you communicate to your children or spouse this week?

**PRAYER – Father, when your expectations become our actions, our households will become what you longed for them to be. Please help us be proactive to do what you expect of us so that our homes become gospel-centered and bring glory to You. Amen.**

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving..” (Col. 3:23-24)*