

The Book of Colossians

Lesson 12

Study Notes

Christians Living Part III

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Text: Colossians 3:18-25 & 4:1-6.

Introduction: We come now to the application of the preeminence of Christ in our lives will have an effect on our family life, our work life, and our public life. We must consider that the holiness of the believer is not limited to the church, but must be practiced in our everyday living in the world. As we look back at the previous verses, we see that when our lives are filled with the _____ of God; the _____ of God; and a clear understanding of the _____ of God; then we have the resources that will guide us through every aspect of our daily lives. Only as the _____ fills us can we live the Christ-life as wives and husbands, as parents and children, and as masters and servants.

Colossians 3:14-15

I. Holiness in Family Life.

Paul lived in the day of _____, and in that day some men counted a wife as no more than a legal concubine; they did not marry because of love and devotion. Some men had several wives, and they were no more than _____ and _____ in the hands of bitter and ungodly men.

In the case of born-again believers there is nothing on earth more sacred and beautiful than a home that has been ordained by God.

Matthew 19:3-6

Psalm 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

A. The submission of the wife.

Colossians 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

The word "submit" means to subject one's self, to be obedient to another's desire; to be subordinate.

If God has joined man and woman together, if the union is a result of pure love, the submission of the wife to the husband is prompted by a wife's affection and the _____ tendency to lean on the husband for support. The wife was created by God to be the "helpmeet" of man. The very word "helpmeet" suggests that the wife is to be auxiliary and not the _____ one in the household. The problem often of many women in submission; is because of the _____ of many men. The phrase "submit yourselves" does not give the husband the right to dominate and _____ the thoughts and emotions of the wife. Many times, the problem of submission can be traced back to the type of love being shown by the husband. A love of affection is not enough, we need to have the love which _____; this is the agape love given to us by God.

Note: Since the home has been an institution ordained by God himself; the devil has certainly worked havoc on the home. We have the acceptance of promiscuous lifestyles, chastity is scorned, extramarital affairs are commonplace, all wreaking havoc in homes. In the United States, " _____ " divorce has played a major role in destroying homes. It began in California in 1969 with the enactment of a statute allowing for "no-fault" divorce; in effect it allows for divorce on _____. So, one by one other states have followed suit. The old idea that marriage vows were sacred and sacramental and therefore binding has been thrown out of _____. Now single-parent families are as common as two-parent families. And even worse, many partners just live together without even bothering with the formality of marriage.

"As it is fit in the Lord." Ephesians 5:3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

We are not to participate in anything that is not becoming of a Christian. Submission to a sinful husband does not include participation in acts of _____. The Christian wife must discern what she is allowed to submit to, and what she must abstain from.

B. The support of the husband.

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

When we look at the companion scripture to this thought we are given an analogy as to why husbands are to love their wives; it should be the same as Christ's love for His _____.

Ephesians 5:25-33.

The love that a husband is to love with is "agape" love like that was shown at Calvary. It is love that sacrifices without consideration of returned love. The husband is to be willing to sacrifice his own desires in the interest of the _____ of his wife.

"Be not bitter against them." The term bitter here means that we are not to irritate, embitter, or exasperate (frustrate intensely) our wives. The husband is to love his wife in a way that produces _____ and _____ not agitation and discomfort.

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

Fathers are commanded to treat their children with respect and love. The word "provoke" means "to stir up, excite, or stimulate." The father is to discipline his child in a manner that calms the child and does not encourage _____.

The word for "discouraged" means "to be disheartened" or "to have their spirit broken." Parental responsibility involves setting standards and defining limits and enforcing discipline. But these things need to be done intelligently, reasonably, and lovingly. Being a parent involves awesome responsibility and ultimately _____ to God.

Psalms 127:3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

C. The submission of children to obey.

Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

The word "obey" signifies obedience to a command. Obey is defined as "to listen' to hearken; to submit or be obedient to a specific command."

Children should obey because:

1. The Bible teaches that they should obey.
2. The Blessing that is promised with obedience.
3. The Blessing of being prepared for the life ahead.

Parental rule is the first circle of _____ in God's moral government of the world. It is in the home that children are first confronted with the fact of authority and learn their first lessons in _____. If a child does not learn obedience to parental authority, he will grow up to disrespect all authority and ultimately divine authority. God takes a serious view of disrespect for parental authority. In the Old Testament, a rebellious son was to be brought before the magistrate and condemned to _____.

Exodus 21:17 And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.

II. Holiness in Work Life.

Colossians 3:22-24.

A. The measure of the servant's service.

"Obey in all things" This phrase is the exact phrase used for the child. We are to obey all orders from our employers. This is required to show _____ for authority. The human master, or employer, is to be obeyed in all things that do not contradict the express commands of the heavenly Master. Employees are to render faithful, diligent, Christlike service.

B. The manner of the servant's service.

"Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; "

Christian employees should be the best, the most trustworthy, the most loyal, faithful, and industrious people in the workforce. Our concern should be our _____ and witness for the Lord.

C. The motive of the servant's service.

Colossians 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

All work for the believer is elevated to the eternal plane and will be rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ. There will be a reward for the man who followed the _____, just as for the man who filled the pulpit. There will be a reward for the man who worked in the factory, just as for the man who went to the _____.

III. Holiness in Public Life.

Colossians 4:1-6 We should pray right, walk right, talk right.