

Colossians 3:18-4:1 Christian Conduct In And Outside Of the Home

Frank G Warburton / General

Colossians

Last time in Colossians we looked at Chapter 3 verses 8 to 17. We looked at the old life before Christ and the new life in Christ. We saw how we are to put off the sensual sins, which are primarily sexual in nature and that we are to put off the social sins which are outward in action.

[Colossians 3:8-9](#) “8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,”

As believers we will still fall into sin and will not be perfected until JESUS; comes to take us home. This passage in [Colossians 3:8-9](#) does not refer to stumbling into sin, but a desire to be free from sin. It should not be a pattern or a lifestyle.

In [Colossians 3:8-9](#) and verse 10 Paul inserts another contrast in terms of putting off the old life and putting on the new.

When you think of putting off the old man; think of grave clothes; and putting on the new man as our robes of Christ's righteousness. This is symbolic of JESUS's death, burial and Resurrection.

[2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

“17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

We saw last time that “Christ is all and in all, means that JESUS is all we need.”

“Christ is all and in all means that JESUS inhabits all true believers. Here we see that when a person comes to Christ; they become part of HIS body which is the

Church. , that JESUS takes away the differences in HIS body on a national level as in no distinction between Gentiles and Jews.

In the Church there is no distinction on a religious level as HE brings Jew and Gentile together in One Body; (Explain about not becoming Jewish like the Judiazers but one in Christ.)

There is also no distinction in his body based upon economic status.

(explain the change in the disciples Matthew and Simon: tax collector vs zealot.)

We saw last time that as we put off the sensual and social sins that Paul contrasted that with the new life in CHRIST, where we are according to [Colossians 3:12-13](#). Put On tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another. In other words the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

We saw that JESUS made us a Holy or set apart people, that we are beloved of GOD. We saw that we are to lift one another up and encourage one another.

We saw last time that we are to forgive one another and not hold a grudge against a brother or sister. We also saw last time that how we are to handle complaints or an issue with a brother or sister by going to them to resolve the issue. We are not to gossip or slander a brother or sister, to bring division; but to seek unity.

We are to let God's peace rule in our hearts and to be thankful.

It is easier to keep our eyes on the LORD when we are thankful to HIM. Thankful for what he did for us on the Cross; thankful for the simple things. Sometimes it takes a trial to appreciate things that we might take for granted.

We concluded with [Colossians 3:16-17](#) "16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 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."

As we concluded with these two verses, we are to have our lives saturated with the WORD of GOD. Encouraging one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.

Tonight we will be focusing on the application of the preceeding verses.

[Colossians 3:18-4:1](#)

“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.”

[Colossians 4:1](#) “1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.”

This section of scripture that we are looking at tonight; Paul must have considered to be very important as he repeated it in Ephesians.

[Colossians 3:18-19](#)

“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.”

Traditional, Biblical marriage in our society is under intense attack. It is tragic that the adjectives traditional and Biblical have to be used to describe marriage. We used to be able to say marriage and knew exactly what a person was talking about.

As you read through the Scriptures; be sensitive to what the Bible says directly; and also what it DOES NOT say.

(Wives submit to wives/ husbands love your husbands. etc)

The word for wife in the Greek is gyne and means a biological woman.

The word for husband in vs 18 and verse 19 in the Greek is aner (an-ayr) and means a biological man. (adjectives again.)

Marriage as an institution was instituted in the book of Genesis. Please keep your finger here and turn to [Genesis 1](#).

[Genesis 1:26-28](#) We will read the part of genesis 26, verse 27 and the beginning of verse 28.

“26a Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.”

You are made in the image of GOD. That does not mean you are a “little god.” But just as GOD is a tri-une being. Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Man also is a tri-une being. Body, Soul and Spirit.

vs 27 in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

The Hebrew Word for male is zakar (zaw-kawr) and means a biological male.

The Hebrew Word for female is (nek-ay-baw) and means a biological females.

And what did GOD say at the end of the day for the first six days of Creation.

[Genesis 1:31](#) “31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”

vs 27 in the image of God He created him ; male and female He created them.

GOD doesn't make mistakes. (speak to transgenderism)(hope in JESUS)

Now go to [Genesis 2:18](#) “18 And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.””

[Genesis 2:21-24](#)

“21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

23 And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.” 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

(significance of Eve being taken from Adam’s side and not his head or foot.)

“The Lord created for Adam a companion. He made a “help meet for him”—a helper matching to him—one who was fitted to be his mate, and who could be united with him in love and fellowship.

The fact that Eve was created from a rib taken from the side of Adam, suggests that she was not to control him as the leader, nor to be trampled under his feet as an inferior, but to stand by his side as an equal, to be cherished and protected by him.

Eve was a part of man, bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh. She was his second self. This shows the intimate union and the loving attachment that must take place in this union.

Thus, the woman was formed for inseparable unity and fellowship of life with the man, and the method of her creation laid the actual foundation for the moral order of marriage. She was to stand by his side as an equal.”

<https://bibleask.org/why-did-god-create-eve-from-adams-rib/>

A key take away is that [Genesis 2](#) comes before [Genesis 3](#). Yes I know that is quite profound. Two comes before three.

Yes but something significant happens in Genesis Chapter 3. The Fall. The Fall brought sin into the world and turned GOD’s perfect plan and turned it upside down.

Before the fall man was joined spirit to Spirit with GOD. At the fall that connection was severed. Instead of the Spirit being uppermost; the fulfillment of mans physical desires came uppermost.

At the fall Man, Woman and the Serpent were each cursed.

Turn a page to [Genesis 3](#). After Adam and Eve sinned; God confronted them. The first Biblical reference

We will look at verse 16 and 17.

The serpent was curse to crawl on the ground and in [Genesis 3:15](#), we have the first promise of the Messiah. The seed of the woman a reference to the virgin birth.

[Genesis 3:16-17](#)

“16 To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.”

17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.”

in [Genesis 3:16](#) the LORD’s statement to the woman that “Your desire shall be for your husband and he shall rule over you.” Sounds nice on the surface. That her desire would be for her husband. But it actually means that she would desire the authority of her husband; and that in the fallen world would rule over or seek dominion over her.

Without Christ, this is the situation that most marriages are like.

Turn back to [Colossians 3](#).

[Colossians 3:18-19](#)

“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.”

The word submit in the Greek is hypotasso (hoop-ot-as'-so) and means to line up under or to subject one self; or obey.

Wives are to submit to their own husbands, not someone else's husband as is fitting to the LORD.

(as is fitting to the LORD: give examples. not things that are illegal or explicit)

vs 19 Husbands love your wives and do not be bitter towards them.

Greek word for love is agapao, which we have discussed previously as the highest form of selfless love.

These two commands are so important that Paul also included them in his Epistle to the Church at Ephesus.

[Ephesians 5:22](#)

“22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”

[Ephesians 5:25](#)

“25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,”

When husbands and wives are obedient to their roles in the marriage; and desiring their marriage to be an example of the relationship with Christ and HIS Church. But sometimes things don't start out that way.

Ladies you may be sitting here saying; I will not submit to my husband because he is so overbearing.

(Chuck and Nancy Missler)

Book trilogy

Why Should I Be the First to Change?

Faith In The Night Seasons

The Way of Agape

(Dave and Crystal submission & headcoverings & Church at Corinth)

The National Organization for Women, NOW was founded by Betty Friedan, a Marxist, who also founded The National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws which was renamed the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL); after the Roe vs Wade Supreme Court Decision in 1973.

In 1968, American feminist group — the National Organization for Women — released a "Resolution on Head Coverings":[82]

WHEREAS, the wearing of a head covering by women at religious services is a custom in many churches and whereas it is a symbol of subjection within these churches, NOW recommends that all chapters undertake an effort to have all women participate in a "national unveiling" by sending their head coverings to the task force chairman immediately. At the Spring meeting of the Task force on Women in Religion, these veils will then publicly be burned to protest the second class status of women in all churches."

One last thought on Wives submitting to your own husbands. Sometimes ladies when the LORD is telling you to submit, HE is basically telling you to duck, so HE can deal with your husband.

[Colossians 3:20](#)

"20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord."

(Parents don't tune me out now. Talk about reinforcement in Sunday School.)

The word to obey means to listen to attentively. Listening is different than hearing.

The meaning in the Greek for the word all means ALL. The LORD now shifts to dealing with children.

Lets turn and look at this in Ephesians. Turn to [Ephesians 6](#).

[Ephesians 6:1-3](#)

“1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: 3 “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.””

The first command that has promise is for children to Honor their father and their mother.

Honor parents was so important that it is part of the ten commandments. It is then repeated in Deuteronomy.

[Deuteronomy 5:16](#)

“16 ‘Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.’”

Honoring parents is the first step in honoring and respecting authority. (contrast with how society views the family unit.)

GOD felt so strongly about children obeying their parents that it was a Capital Offense for a son to be rebellious to his parents.

Why because as parents we need to deal with the sin in the hearts of our children. (example of a father telling a child to sit down.)

A rebellious heart towards parents is a rebellious heart towards GOD. We need to be pointing our children back to GOD; that when they disobey and disrespect us they are disobeying and disrespecting GOD.

Turn back to [Colossians 3](#).

[Colossians 3:21](#)

“21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”

As men we are to be the leaders, leading in prayer; the study of the WORD; fellowship and service. But, Fathers are to be the loving disciplinarians in the home. We are to be the example of our loving FATHER in Heaven.

An example of how GOD deals with us as our FATHER is found in [Hebrews 12:6](#).

[Hebrews 12:6](#)

“6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.””

When we sin GOD will lovingly chasten us. While it is not fun when the LORD: (takes us to the woodshed.) We know that HE only does it because HE loves us.

The word provoke in [Colossians 3:21](#) means to stir up or excite or provoke. As difficult as it can be sometimes; we are not to discipline in a way that is unloving. Doing so can cause the child to become discouraged.

The word discouraged in verse 21 means to be disheartened and to be broken in spirit. When this happens it can lead to hopelessness.

When Fathers, provide loving discipline; they are being an example of GOD the FATHER. (speak about being able to relate to GOD on this level.)

[Colossians 3:22-23](#)

“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,”

The word Bondservants should really be translated as Bondslave. The word in the Greek is Doulos and is a bond slave. (give brief description.)

We are to obey our employers and do a good job for them as unto the LORD. We are not supposed to do just a good job when we are being watched, but even when we are not watched. We need to be sincere in our work and genuine believers.

Should we witness to our co-workers when on the job?

There is nothing wrong with standing up for the truth on the job. But we should not be having a full on discipleship meeting and not doing our job. (Explain)

The unbelievers you work with are watching you. They are evaluating you to see if walk the walk or just talking the talk. (explain time cards, etc.)

They are forming their basis on who Christ is by watching you.

Mahatma Gandhi was asked about why India was resistant to the teachings of JESUS.

He responded,

“ I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.”

[Colossians 3:23-24](#)

“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.”

To work heartily means to give it everything you’ve got and to work as unto the LORD and not to men. (Talk about my jobs of having to work as unto the LORD.)

vs 24 Knowing that from the LORD you will receive the reward of the inheritance for you serve the LORD Christ.

We need to remember that your boss at work is not really your boss; but that JESUS is. And from HIM we will receive rewards; and a portion of HIS inheritance. What are the rewards; crowns to lay at HIS feet.

[Revelation 4:10-11](#)

“10, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: 11 “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.””

So JESUS give us the ability to earn the crowns; HE gives us the crowns and HE gives us the rewards for the crowns.

He has done it all

[Colossians 3:25](#)

“25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.”

Ultimately if we do a poor job for our employers; we will reap the consequences.

[Colossians 4:1](#)

“1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.”

Masters would refer to either the foreman; manager or owner of the business. So to the Christian businessmen; do right by your employees. Give them what is owed to them; think of Boaz in the Book of Ruth and the respect between him and his employees.

Tonight's message really is not about submission; loving and not being bitter towards to your wives. It is not about being a good employee; or a good owner but obedience.

Be obedient whatever your role is or where HE has you.

You may be here tonight saying I am really struggling in my walk. I can't do this; you don't know who my fill in the blank is. You're right I don't know all the details of your situation; but I have lived my own. Without the LORD; yes, this is impossible.

Elisabeth Elliot said. “A whole lot of what we call ‘struggling’ is simply delayed obedience.”

With out the LORD; yes, this is impossible. But with God all things are possible.

[Philippians 4:13](#)

“13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

We will hopefully finish the Book of Colossians next time.