

Study Guide

COLOSSIANS

Always. Only. Jesus.

Jesus, Our Lord | Colossians 3:18 - 4:1

¹⁸Wives, 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 is pleasing to the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they will not become discouraged.

²²Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything, not only to please them while they are watching, but with sincerity of heart and fear of the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴because you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as your reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ²⁵Whoever does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.

¹Masters, supply your slaves with what is right and fair, since you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

Introduction

Because of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done on our behalf (Colossians 1-2), He alone has the right to be Lord over our lives.

And that includes every part and every moment of our every day lives: our family, our work, and our positions of authority.

As our desires and thoughts are set on things above where Jesus is at the right hand of God, all that we are and do is surrendered to Jesus. Always. Only. Jesus.

The BIG Idea:

Because you belong to the Lord Jesus, you must submit your closest relationships to His authority.

1. Jesus Is Lord Over Our Family (3:18-21)

Our family roles are expressions of worship to our heavenly Master.

2. Jesus Is Lord Over Our Work (3:22-25)

Because Christ is our ultimate employer, the quality of our work is evidence of our submission to His Lordship.

3. Jesus Is Lord Over Those in Authority (4:1)

Our earthly authority is a temporary stewardship that will one day be held accountable to the King.

There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: "Mine!"

Abraham Kuyper

Let's Think About It

How does verse 3:11 set the foundation of sorts for everything that follows in 3:18-4:1?

Looking at verses 18-21, what specific commands are given to wives, husbands, children, fathers. What stands out to you about how direct and concise these commands are?

Verse 18 says wives are to submit "as is fitting in the Lord." What does it mean for submission to be defined and limited by Christ's lordship?

Husbands are commanded to love and not be harsh. How does this command challenge both sinful passivity and sinful domination?

Verse 20 says children's obedience "pleases the Lord." How does connecting obedience to Christ (not just parents) change the motivation for children and for parents raising them?

Fathers are warned not to provoke their children. What are some ways this can happen in real life? How does this command call fathers to reflect God's character as an act of worship?

In verses 22-24, what repeated phrases show that our work is ultimately done for Christ rather than people?

What is the difference between "eye-service" and "working with sincerity of heart"? Where are you most tempted toward one or the other?

Verse 24 says, "You are serving the Lord Christ." How would your attitude or effort change if you truly believed that about your daily work?

Verse 25 emphasizes that wrongdoing will be repaid and that there is no partiality. How does this encourage both integrity and trust in God's justice?

Verse 4:1 tells masters to act justly and fairly, knowing they have a Master in heaven. How should this shape the way those in authority (at work, at home, in the church) use their position?

What does it practically look like to view authority as a stewardship rather than a right or privilege?

Looking at this entire passage, which relationship in your life is hardest to bring under the lordship of Christ right now? Why?

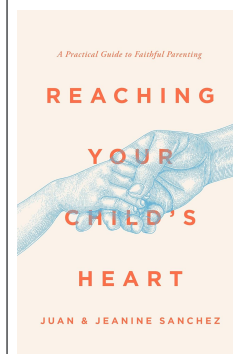
How does the gospel (what Christ has done for you) empower you to obey these commands—not out of duty alone, but out of love and gratitude?

He is Lord! He is Lord!

He is risen from the dead and He is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord.



Book Recommendation

[Reaching Your Child's Heart](#)
[Juan and Jeanine Sanchez](#)

