

Week of Nov 11 - Colossians 3:18-4:1

Introduction / Icebreaker

- This week's sermon mentioned how much of a "bombshell" some of these ideas would have been to the culture at the time. What biblical concepts or commands have been a "bombshell" to you? In other words, what biblical teaching do you / did you have a hard time accepting?
- What questions or concerns did this sermon bring up for you? What struck you the most? Is there anything you wanted to talk about before we dive into specific questions?

Scripture / Sermon Discussion

- Jonathan defined submission as, "to voluntarily recognize and put yourself under the leadership of someone or something else."
 - What comments do you have about that definition? What would you want to emphasize in light of your own life/relationships?
- How is Jesus' relationship with the church and his relationship with the Father an example to *both* husbands and wives in how they relate to each other? (Hint: think in terms of his submission and sacrifice)
- Similarly, how can *both* those in authority over others and those in subordinate roles look to Jesus as a guide for their relationships?
 - For those in authority, look to the end of verse 4:1
 - For those in subordinate roles, look to the end of 3:23
- Consider the many relational "hats" you wear in your different relationships (sometimes leadership, sometimes subordinate). In which role/relationship do you think you need to grow the most? How could you do that?
- Submitting to authority is hard! Can anyone share an example where submitting—even when they didn't feel like it—turned out to be a good idea? What about where you didn't submit and realized you should have?
- Jesus is the key! Colossians points to *Jesus* being the foundation for what we need in life—and this passage applies it to our various relationships. Discuss the pitfalls of trying to live a life of sacrificial love and/or submission without Christ. Is it even possible? Why or why not?

- With regards to sacrificial love and submission (in marriage, family, work, etc), consider any regrets you might have. If you're willing, share these with the group and ask for healing and hope in those relationships

Prayer

- Left to ourselves, we have a tendency to sin and continue the “downward spiral” in our relationships. Pray that each group member would have the power of Christ in order to break such a cycle in their relationships:
 - Further to that, pray for restoration and hope in the midst of relationships (including those that may seem hopeless)
- As a group, confess—through prayer—your basic trust in God’s goodness and his desire for our best. Ask him for growth in that area and to trust him enough to sacrificially love and submit in our relationships