



PART 10: PUTTING NEW LIFE INTO PRACTICE

Sermon Notes

Text: Colossians 3:18-4:1

Intro:

Christian faith is most important when we are most ourselves. How does it apply to our home and our work?

Colossians 3:17

Jesus has released us into a new life, and now we must express ourselves in light of that and according to God's divine pattern.

1. New Life in Marriage (v. 18-19)

Submission is the respectful admiration and appreciation of who God created your husband to be.

Submit... "As fitting in the Lord" – which indicates that submission to your husband is not even about your husband; it's about your respect and submission to Jesus.

Paul breaks with cultural norms by instructing husbands to actually treat their wives with dignity. They are completely equal with men and have full rights as human beings, so love them accordingly.

Ephesian 5:25 - men are to remind their wives of the loving sacrifice and service of Jesus.

Husbands must not force their wives to become merely a projection of their selfish fantasies. They are to love and support her as God transforms him into his image.

2. New Life in Family (v. 20-21)

Obedience is not about your parents; it's about your relationship with the Lord, who is your true Father in heaven. Obedience to your parents is an act of obedience and worship to the Lord.

Our goal is not to conform children into our image, or our vision for them, but to play our part as God shapes them into the image of his son.

Parents must, by their example, teach their children what it means to willfully and lovingly obey their heavenly father.

3. New Life at Work

The quality of our work, and the effort we put in, bypasses our earthly master/boss and becomes an act of worship and service to our heavenly master.

2 Corinthians 9:10, Philippians 4:19 - all work is God's work when done as an act of service to him.

Conclusion:

"In whatever role, then, a Christian finds himself or herself, at home or at work, life can a must be lived 'for the Lord', and in harmony with one's fellow human beings." ~N.T. Wright

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Read Colossians 3:18-4:1. What stood out to you in Sunday's message? Are there any questions or concerns you still have about the text?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read the parallel passage found in Ephesians 5:21-6:9. What does this passage add to the discussion?
2. Men, women, children, parents, slaves and masters are all image bearers of God. How does that shape the way each of these parties treat each other? How does it shape the way that those who have power should treat those without? How does Colossians 3:17 shape the way we understand v. 18-4:1?
3. Why do you think Paul never tried to start a movement to end slavery? Does that mean he condoned it? What was he trying to do instead? How does his message to slaves apply to your situation at work?

Application:

1. Considering Colossians 3:17 & 23, which sphere of your life needs to be addressed this week? Marriage, family or work?

Prayer:

1. Pray for wisdom and grace as you apply this teaching to your life.

2. Other Requests

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