

## Colossians: Be Who You Are

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### COLOSSIANS 3:18-4:1

#### Core Competency: Kindness

“I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.”

*See to it that no one repays evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good for one another and for all. (1 Thessalonians 5:15)*

#### Using This Study

##### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

##### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

##### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

#### Introduction

When I was 4 years old, I played an ill-conceived game that involved me placing a large brown box over my head while following directives issued by my older sister and a neighborhood friend. The object of the game was to safely direct me from point A to point B. For good measure, they twirled me around 10 or 15 times prior to commencing. Giggling, hopelessly silly, I moved with reckless abandon across the flat grassy hill top. I tried to follow their directions, but they were so hard to hear. Fearless, I took one step after another until suddenly I lost my footing. Unwittingly, I had stepped off a small cliff. I plunged about 15 feet onto the soft ground below. I lay on the ground helpless, bleeding while my sister ran for help. If only for a fence that would have kept me from the cliff's edge. I could have enjoyed absolute freedom within clearly defined boundaries. Without boundaries, I was exposed to the naked peril of the precipice.

In this passage, Paul provides instructions to believers: submit, obey, love selflessly, and serve. At first glance, they may sound impossibly restrictive. Yet, they form boundaries that God lovingly instituted for the believer's benefit. Whether you are thinking about your spouse, your parents, your children, your employer or employee, you are called to, “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Ephesians 5:21) As you do, in one of God's most beautiful paradoxes, you will experience extraordinary freedom. Miraculously, you are free to live and to love with a sort of reckless abandon that must bring joy to God's heart

#### This Week

This week, as you study, ask God to give you a willing heart. Delight in the opportunity to love God and others. Yield to the Holy Spirit and step out in faith. God will use your obedience to bring glory to His name and, in the process, you will be blessed.

## ① EXAMINE His Word

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What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

### Read Colossians 3:18-4:1

18 Wives, be submissive to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives and don't be bitter toward them.

20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so they won't become discouraged.

22 Slaves, obey your human masters in everything. Don't work only while being watched, in order to please men, but work wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord.

23 Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men,

24 knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.

25 For the wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever wrong he has done, and there is no favoritism.

### Colossians 4:1

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

## ② EXPLORE His Word

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What does God MEAN?

1. If you had to compose a subtitle for this section in your Bible, what would it be?
2. In verse 18, Paul says that wives should be submissive to their husbands.
  - a) What do you think it means to be submissive?
  - b) According to Ephesians 5:21-24, what is the reason for this?
  - c) What added instruction for wives is found in Ephesians 5:33?
3. How are husbands instructed to treat their wives in verse 19? Read Ephesians 5:25-33 to help answer this question.

4. a) What practical steps could you take to better respond to your spouse as described in these passages?
  - b) If your spouse does not behave in the prescribed manner, are you, in any way, off the hook? Who is responsible for effecting change in your spouse?
  
5. In verse 20, children are instructed to obey their parents. Read Ephesians 6:1-3.
  - a) What is the difference between honoring and obeying? Who is instructed to obey and who is instructed to honor?
  
  - b) What promise is tied to the command to honor parents?
  
6. Paul addresses fathers in verse 21. Read Ephesians 6:4.
  - a) What instructions does Paul give and what do you think he means? What might be an example of exasperating your child?
  
  - b) Do you think this advice is applicable to mothers?
  
7. To what modern-day relationships, if any, could the instructions for master and slave be applied?
  
8. Read Colossians 3:22 - 4:1 and Ephesians 6:5-9.
  - a) What instructions does Paul give for working? To whom are both slave and master accountable?
  
  - b) In what area of your life or in what relationship is God calling you to make a change? Write down 2 or 3 specific behaviors that you could wholeheartedly put into practice.

## ③ EMBRACE His Word

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Why does this MATTER to me?

### **Summarize your thoughts on the passage:**

In one statement, write what God wants you to KNOW...

In one statement, write how God wants you to FEEL...

In one statement, write what God wants you to DO...

## **Sermon Notes**

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# 30 CORE Competencies

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## 10 Core Beliefs

**Trinity** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Salvation by Grace** *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Authority of the Bible** *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

**Personal God** *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

**Identity in Christ** *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

**Church** *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

**Humanity** *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

**Compassion** *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

**Eternity** *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

**Stewardship** *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

## 10 Core Practices

**Worship** *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

**Prayer** *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

**Bible Study** *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

**Single-mindedness** *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

**Spiritual Gifts** *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

**Biblical Community** *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

**Giving Away My Time** *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Money** *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Faith** *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Life** *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

## 10 Core Virtues

**Joy** *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

**Peace** *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

**Faithfulness** *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

**Self-Control** *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

**Humility** *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

**Love** *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

**Patience** *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

**Kindness/Goodness** *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

**Gentleness** *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

**Hope** *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ