

October 13, 2019

Relationships Part II Colossians 3:18-4:1 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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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 that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

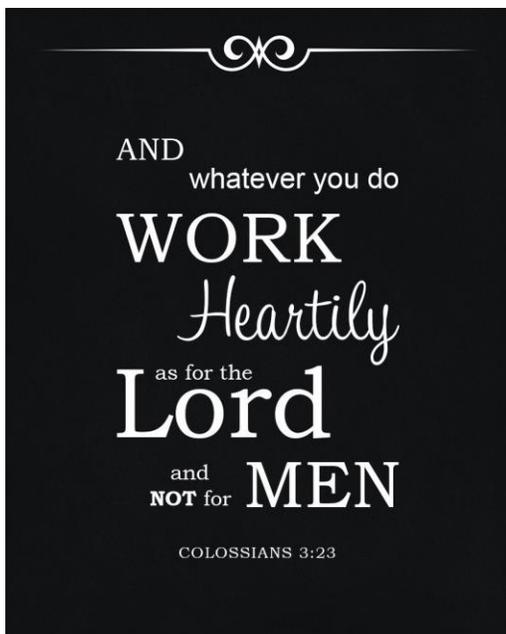
What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

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.



In this last section of Chapter 3 of Colossians Paul gets very specific about some of our relationships. Often people in our society today will object to verse 18's command for wives to be subject to their husbands. Opponents of the Bible will also point to verse 22 and try to discredit the Bible by saying it condones slavery. However, we need to remember that with good Bible study we must consider both context and the culture in which it was written. Paul's intent in this passage was never to say slavery is acceptable. He was much more concerned about instructing people to glorify God in whatever situation they find themselves in. It is important not to rip Paul's statements out of their context and transplant them to our cultural understanding 2000 years later. Join us this week as we talk about the principles that we can draw out of this passage and how we can glorify God in all our relationships.



Colossians 3:18-4:1 (NASB)

¹⁸ Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. ²⁰ Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

²² Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who *merely* please men, but with

sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. ²⁵ For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

4 Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

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

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. Read verses 18 and 19. Which of the two would be the most shocking to the original audience? Why?

9. How would a father exasperate his children?

10. Is verse 22 condoning slavery? Explain your answer.

11. What does it look like to work for the Lord and not for men?

12. What is the inheritance and how do we receive it?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

13. What do you believe is the overarching theme in these 8 verses? How do they all fit together?

14. What should be the primary concern in your relationships with others?

15. How can we be more intentional with our relationships this week?

16. When is it hard to work as unto the Lord? What can you do to overcome the challenges?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes