

A STUDY IN PHILIPPIANS AND COLOSSIANS

LESSON 26 COLOSSIANS 3:18-4:1

1.	What came to your mind from last week's study on Colossians 3:11-17 that changed how	v you
	reacted or interacted in some way?	

- 2. The second half of **Colossians 3** gives wise instructions for Godly living. Before you read **3:18-4:1**, pray and ask God what He wants to reveal to you about your relationships at home or at work.
- 3. Paul's first instruction in V18 was to wives.
 - a) Define "submit" in your own words.
 - b) What feelings does the word "submit" stir up in you and why?
- 4. Paul gave a reason in V18 for his instruction to wives.
 - a) How do the following verses add to your understanding of how submission is "fitting in the Lord?"
 - Proverbs 3:5-6
 - Ephesians 5:21-24
 - James 4:7
 - b) How has your thinking on this subject been challenged or changed?
- 5. What two instructions were given to husbands in **V19**, and how does this bring balance to the teaching for wives?

- 6. V20 addresses children.
 - a) Under what circumstances are children to obey their parents? Where have you seen this lived out well or not?
 - b) What reason did Paul give for children to be obedient, and what reasons do you hear parents give to their children today?
- 7. a) In your own words, what parent/child relationship pitfall was Paul addressing in V21?
 - b) If you have had personal experience with the parenting pitfall Paul addressed, how has it shaped you or your family relationships?
- 8. In the context of what you know about Paul's first century culture, how do you think the readers of Paul's letter would have reacted to any of these instructions for:
 - Wives
 - Husbands
 - Children
 - Fathers

<u>Note</u>: Though in **3:22 - 4:1** Paul specifically addressed Godly living within the master/slave relationship, the same principles can be applied to Christians in today's workplace.

- 9. In **V22**, Paul instructed slaves to be obedient to their masters.
 - a) What were the unhealthy and healthy attitudes mentioned that can be the motivation behind workplace obedience?
 - b) If you look at your own attitudes, what is (or was) your primary motivation to obey workplace rules and expectations?

Lesson 26 2

- 10. a) From **V23-24**, list the different aspects of a right work ethic.
 - b) Which of these is most helpful in re-orienting your mindset about the work you do? Be specific.
- 11. What more does **V25** add to this teaching, and what do you think it means?
- 12. What does 4:1 say to masters, and how can this apply to a Christian boss today?
- 13. Pressing on in confidence can be hard when we're in challenging relationships.
 - a) Share about any relationship where you've seen or experienced God's redeeming work (especially as it relates to **Colossians 3:18-4:1**).
 - b) When others feel stuck in a relational challenge, how would you encourage them to <u>press on?</u> Give examples.

DIGGING DEEPER

- 1. V22-25 encouraged believers to have a strong work ethic. What more does the Bible teach about work?
 - Psalm 90:17
 - Ecclesiastes 3:22
 - Titus 2:9-10
- 2. Earning a promotion in the workplace is often a strong motivator for hard work. What do you learn from the following passages about promotions in God's economy?
 - Psalm 78:70-72
 - Luke 16:10
- 3. a) Write out the Suggested Memory Verse: Colossians 3:23
 - b) Spend some time talking with God about any of the areas in your life that were highlighted in this Lesson.

Lesson 26 3

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST

Lesson 26 4