

A New Paradigm For The New Life

Colossians 3:18-4:1

Introduction

I The Believer's New Attitude Toward Relationships

- A. Wives, **submit** to your husbands - Eph 5:22-24
 - 1. As is fitting in the Lord - Acts 5:29
- B. Husbands, **love** your wives - Eph 5:25
 - 1. And do not be harsh with them - 1 Pet 3:7; Eph 4:29
- C. Children, **obey** your parents in everything - Eph 6:1-3
 - 1. For this pleases the Lord - Eph 5:8-10
- D. Fathers, do not **embitter** your children - Eph 6:4
 - 1. Or they will become discouraged - Heb 3:13
- E. Slaves, **obey** your earthly masters in everything - 1Tim 6:1-2
 - 1. Do it not only when their eye is on you
 - 2. Do it not only to win their favor - Gal 1:10
 - 3. But do it with:
 - a. **Sincerity** of heart - Eph 6:5-6
 - b. **Reverence** for the Lord - Neh 5:15-16

II The Believer's New Attitude Toward Work

- A. Whatever you do, work at it with **all** your heart - 2 Chron 31:20-21
 - 1. As working for the Lord - Col 3:17
 - 2. Not as working for men since you know:
 - a. You will receive an **inheritance** from the Lord as a reward - Eph 6:7-8
 - b. It is the Lord Christ you are **serving**
- B. Anyone who does wrong
 - 1. Will be **repaid** for his wrong - 2 Cor 5:10
 - 2. There is **no** favoritism - Rom 2:6-11; 1 Pet 1:17
- C. Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and **fair**:
 - 1. Because you know that you also have a Master in heaven

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Since coming to Christ, what has been the most dramatic Paradigm Shift in your life?
2. In light of Colossians 3:17-4:1 and your "paradigm-altering" citizenship in the kingdom of God, rate yourself on a scale of 1-10 (10 being the highest) in terms of how effective you are in your various God-given roles:
 - a. As a spouse
 - b. As a child of your parents
 - c. As a father or mother to your child(ren)
 - d. As an employee of your company or business
 - e. As a manager of others or as a business owner
3. If you are a husband/wife, how is the Holy Spirit speaking to you regarding your relationship with your spouse? If you are a parent, is there an area where you may have embittered your child(ren)? If you are a child, have you dishonored your parents? If so, repent before God, be reconciled to the person(s) involved and ask God for a fresh start.
4. How do you usually think of your job: As a paycheck? Or as a ministry? What impact has your perspective had on 1) Your effectiveness, 2) Your value to the business/organization, 3) Your influence for Christ, 4) Your sense of personal fulfillment?
5. What practical steps will you take this week to bring your attitude toward work into line with the teachings of the Bible?
6. Finally, ask the Holy Spirit to show you if there are any areas of sin or disobedience in how you have conducted yourself in your various God-given roles/relationships. If so, go to those individuals, repent, ask their forgiveness and then thank God in advance for giving you the grace, desire, and power to represent Him faithfully as a citizen of His coming kingdom.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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