

Providence Baptist Church

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Colossians 3:18-4:1

18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. 22 Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. 25 For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

4:1 Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

- I. **Introduction: “Why can’t people just get along.”** The source of all conflicts in our families, churches, communities and our world abroad is rooted ultimately in our fallen nature. Any time man rejects God, His Word and His design for our relationships we are destined to have conflicts.

God created principles and laws for us to follow that enable us to rightly relate to Him and to others and when we choose to break those laws and disregard those principles we are doomed to experience conflicts.

ILL. 10 commandments

Whether, these conflicts be arguments and disagreements in our homes or international conflicts that result in wars, all are a result of our inability to adhere to and obey God’s commands and guidelines for our relationship to Him and others.

Today we are going to be looking at one of the text from the writing of Paul that explains God’s design for some of the most fundamental and foundational relationships in our lives; those relationships in our

families as well as those that relate to our vocations, whether as employers or employees.

I have to admit, we will spend the bulk of our time with the most important, which is our family relationships.

It is true that the family is the bedrock of our society, so goes the family, so goes the society and culture.

We as born-again believers have a responsibility to reflect God's character in this dark, fallen world by being a light set on a hill.

We are sometimes tempted to isolate ourselves to ensure that we are not influenced by the darkness at the expense of reducing the impact of our light in the world.

We must remember that light is designed to drive out darkness, not the other way around.

So often, we allow the darkness to drive us underground instead of standing boldly in the face of the darkness holding forth the light of the Gospel by revealing its nature in the relationships of our lives.

When we as people created in God's image reject our creator and his Word which provides the guidelines and principles for life and relationships, we are left to ourselves, without morality, guidance and purpose in life.

This vacuum reduces man's existence to happen-chance governed by relativism and situational ethics. Once you remove objective truth provided by a sovereign God, you are left with everyone doing what is right in their own eyes at the expense of other's feelings, needs and lives. Unfortunately, that is where we find ourselves today in this world, our churches and all too often our own homes and families.

By God's Grace, He has provided principles, guidelines and instructions to help redeem the brokenness of our relationships and

enable us to fan into flame the light of our lives as a witness to this dark world of the redemptive power of the Gospel.

God the Father, thankfully has not just provided commandments to keep but His Spirit to equip us to live them out.

According to 1 Corinthians 1:30 we learn that Jesus Christ has become for us our Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption. He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end and the author and finisher of our faith. Praise God we are not left to live out the strict commands expectations of God without His enabling us by His Grace.

Christ is our sanctification, but it is through His Word that He has chosen to sanctify us practically by living out our faith day in and day out in the context of our relationships.

John 17:17, "...sanctify them by Thy Truth, Thy Word is Truth."

Whether we are husbands, wives, fathers, children, employers, or employees we have a responsibility to live out our faith in humble dependence upon Christ.

Today, we will do our best to glean from Paul's writing to the Colossian church how we may express the character of Christ in and the through the relationships that are nearest and dearest to us as believers.

In this text, Paul addresses 6 different groups of people: Wives, Husbands, Children, Fathers, Slaves, and Masters.

- 1. He is showing that every relationship, every area of life, must be brought into
subjection to Christ.**
- 2. We are going to see an almost perfect parallel in Ephesians that will help us.**

I. Wives v18

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

Ephesians 5:22-24

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

A. Submission is not by compulsion:

- 1. The Greek word for submit is Hupotasso, which literally means to willingly submit not by compulsion but freely subjecting oneself to another's authority.**
 - a. Jesus submitted to His parents**
 - b. Paul admonishes us to submit to governing authorities**

B. Submission does not mean inferiority.

- 1. Jesus submitted to the will of the Father and He is in no way inferior to the Father, but is One with the Father**
- 2. Galatians 3:28 (ESV) 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

C. Submission is not absolute.

- 1. God and His Word must reign in this relationship. If or when a husband's desires or demands of his wife are not in concert with the Word of God, the wife must be first and foremost submissive to Christ.**

D. Submission allows a wife to enjoy the blessings of the umbrella of Christ protective loving authority extended over her by her husband

- a. 1 Corinthians 11:3 (ESV) 3 But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.**

E. Submission that the Lord commands of a wife is a willing submission within the context of a loving, intimate relationship with a husband who exercises his authority with sensitivity, servant-heartedness and grace.

F. Submission of a willing wife is the reward of a husband who is not authoritative, abusive, oppressive, or over bearing, but loves his bride as Christ loves the church, who woos her with His love and devotion.

II. Husbands v19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

Ephesians 5:25-33

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- A. The love of a godly husband is the reward of a willingly submissive wife**
- 1. The love of a husband is to mirror Christ love for the church v.25**
 - 2. The love of a husband is self-sacrificial v.25**
 - 3. The love of a husband sanctifying v.26**
 - 4. The love of a husband is to mirror his own love for himself v. 28-30**

1 Peter 3:1-7

17 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

II. Children v20

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

Ephesians 6:1-3

6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”²

- 1. Obey**

a. Proverbs 6:20 My son, observe the commandment of your father; And do not forsake the teaching of your mother

2. Honor

1. Deuteronomy 5:16 Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you.

2. You all need to recognize how serious this is!

a. O.T. condemns rebellion with fierce judgement.

1. To strike a parent or habitual disobedience was punishable by death

1 Timothy 3:1-5

1 Timothy 3:1–5 (ESV)

Qualifications for Overseers

3 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive,⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?

b. Romans 1:28-32

Romans 1:28–32 (ESV)

²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.³² Though they know God's righteous decree that

those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

IV. Fathers v21

21 *Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

1. Ephesians 6:4

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

2. Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (ESV)

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

3. Discipline and Admonition

1. Discipline may be described as training by means of rules and regulations, rewards, and when necessary punishments. *It refers primarily to what is done*

to the child.

2. Admonition is training by means of the spoken word. *It refers primarily to what is said to the child.*

How do we as Dads or Parents provoke or exasperate our children?

- 1. Overprotection; we must communicate age appropriate trust**
- 2. Showing favoritism; God doesn't play favorites and neither should we**
- 3. Depreciating their worth; we must listen to and appreciate their thoughts, ideas, and contributions**
- 4. Setting unrealistic goals; we must appreciate their unique gifts and not expect them to possess ours**
- 5. Failing to show affection; we must show affection verbally and physically**

- 6. Failing to provide their needs; we must communicate our respect by meeting basic needs that provide security**
- 7. Failing to provide standards; we must create expectations and boundaries also providing security**
- 8. Criticism; We must seek to create a constructive, positive environment for our children to thrive**
- 9. Neglect; Example of David and Absalom; Love is spelled T-I-M-E**
- 10. Excessive Discipline; We must lovingly discipline with a view of restoration as our heavenly Father does us**

Dorothy Law Nolte, “Children Learn what they Live”

If a child live with criticism

He learns to condemn

If a child live with hostility

He learns to be shy

If a child live with shame

He learns to fell guilty

If a child lives with tolerance

He learns to be patient

If a child lives with encouragement,

He learns confidence

If a child live with praise,

He learns to appreciate

If a child live with fairness

He learns justice

If a child lives with security

He learns to have faith

If a child lives with approval

He learns to like himself

**If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,
He learns to find love in the world**

V. Slaves v22-25

22 Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. **23** Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, **24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. **25** For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

1. Ephesians 6:5–8 (ESV)

Bondservants and Masters

5 Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, **6** not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, **7** rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, **8** knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.

2. 1 Corinthians 7:22-24 *For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ's slave. You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. Brethren, each one is to remain with God in that condition in which he was called.*

VI. Masters v4:1 Colossians 4:1 (ESV)

Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

1. Ephesians 6:9 (ESV)

9 Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

2. Do the same things: *In effect Paul is saying, "Promote the welfare of your slaves as you expect them to promote yours. Show the same interest in them and in their affairs as you hope they will show in you and your affairs"*

Review Questions:

What do we learn about God from this text?

How have we fallen short in our roles and relationships?

What ways can we strive to a new standard in our relationships?

¹ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version.* (2016). (1 Pe 3:1-6). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

² *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version.* (2016). (Eph 6:1-3). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.