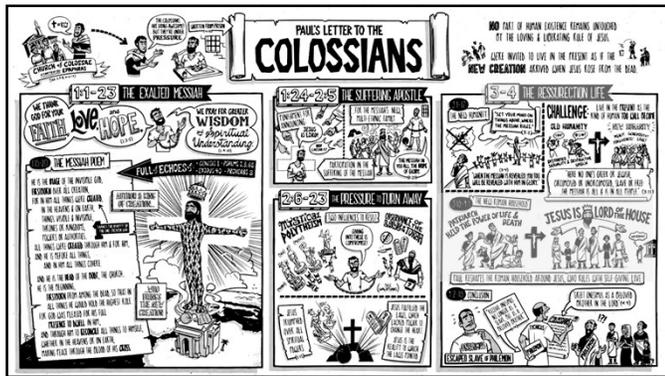


NEW LIFE WITH CHRIST

The Book of Colossians

THE NEW-CREATION LIFE IN THE HOUSEHOLD
(COLOSSIANS 3:18-4:1)

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INTRODUCTION

- Paul is addressing what impact this *new-Creation life* in Christ has on the *typical Roman household*
- Under application of Roman law, the *pater familias* even had the power of life and death for those “under” him
- In contrast, we see the centrality of another “Lord” throughout these verses (8x) - the husband is not the lord/master - Jesus is!
- Another contrast is that people tended to be fundamentally *defined* by their position in the household
- We are defined first by who we are in Christ, which actually (in one sense) obliterates those distinctive (3:11/parallel in Galatians 3:28)

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•A necessary caveat: these verses do not stand alone - all that he has already written regarding the resurrection life together applies within the family, especially when in Christ

- Thus, these verses are *not foundational* (i.e. the place we begin), but rather address *distinctives* within the “economy” of the household
 - These *distinctives* without what is *foundational* can easily turn into *distortions*
- Question: Why does the bulk of this section focus on servants
- Summary: living as new creatures impacts ordinary structures of human life in a radically Christ-centered way

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HUSBANDS/WIVES (18-19)

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

Husbands, love your wives,
and do not be *embittered* with them.

5

CHILDREN/FATHERS (20-21)

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

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

6

SERVANTS/MASTERS (22-4:1)

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**.

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the **Lord** and not for men, knowing that from the **Lord** you will receive the *inheritance as your reward*.

You are serving the **Lord** Christ. For *the wrongdoer* will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is *no partiality*.

7

SERVANTS/MASTERS (22-4:1)

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

8

RESPONSE

- What is primary is who we are in Christ
- Out of that, how do we love one another in Christ
 - Finally, with these two foundational issues laid out, how do we function in the providential relationships that the Lord has placed us
- One potentially helpful question is “what would it look like if Jesus Himself had come to where I am?”
 - What does the love of Jesus through manifest through me to others in these relationships?

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