

# Heavenly Minded Christian Home Colossians 3:18-4:1

## 1. Review: The Church in Colosse:

- Was a major trade city, now the trade route was cutoff and isolated the town.
- False teachers were infiltrating the church:
  - The Church was composed of converted Jews and Gentiles.
  - Jews were tempted to add Old Covenant requirements.
  - Gentiles were tempted to add pagan worship practices.
- Paul reaffirms the centrality of Christ. (Col 1:15-23):
  - Christ is the image of the invisible God, maker of all things.
  - Christ is the head of the Church, the beginning, and the end.
  - Outside of Christ, we are dead and hostile to God
  - In Christ we are holy and blameless before God.
- Paul directly confronts the false teachers (Col 2:20-23).
  - In Christ we should be dead to the world.
  - Human regulations have no value in curbing self-indulgence.
  - Human effort and philosophies will always fall short of the righteousness of God.
- **SEEK** and **SET** (two commands from verses 1-3)
  - Keep **seeking** to obtain biblical wisdom, not just gain knowledge.
  - **Set** your minds on things above: With a heart that has been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. (Philippians 3:19-21)

## 2. Colossians 3:18-4:1 – Practical instruction for the Christian home:

- After laying the foundation of the supremacy of Christ and the new life that we enjoy in Him, Paul shifts to practical applications.
- **As a result of who we are in Christ, these actions bring glory to God.**
- **He has empowered us to do these good things by the Holy Spirit.**
- Three pairs of relationships:
  - husband/wife, fathers/children, masters/ slaves.
  - Almost identical to Ephesians 5:22-6:9
  - Similar passages: Gal 3:28, 1 Tim 5:1-22, 1 Tim 6:1-2, Titus 2:1-15, and 1 Peter 2:11-3:9

## 3. Husbands and Wives:

- Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
  - Your own husband.
  - As is fitting (pleasing) to the Lord.
  - Loving submission as an act of obedience to the Lord.

- Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.
  - As Christ loves the church.
  - As he loves his own body, nourish, and cherish her.
- In a heavenly minded marriage, the husband exercises passionate care and his wife responds in willing submission.
- *“We must live vertically from the grace of God and then bending out horizontally in forgiveness and justification toward our spouse.” Piper*
  - *Through your example:*
  - *Through Life Situations:*
  - *Through questions and answers:*
  - *Through family activities:*

## 4. Fathers and Children:

- Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
  - Old covenant teaching on obedient children (Ex. 21:17; Lev 20:9)
  - Jesus was obedient to His parents (Luke 2:51).
  - *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” Eph. 6:1 (Right, just, or proper)*
- Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.
  - Provoke by unreasonable demands or continual agitation.
  - *“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” Eph 6:4*
  - Praise for well-doing rather than constant criticism will, along with loving discipline, help rear children in “the training and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).

## 5. Masters and Slaves

- Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters...
  - Household bondservants were common in Paul’s time. Some willingly served and some may not have had a choice. No matter their position, as heavenly minded Christ followers they were called to serve Him.
- Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.
  - Held by the same standard of serving the Lord, masters were called to be fair and just.
- These principals apply to Christian employers and employees (Col. 3:17).