

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

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.

Study Guide 1 July 2012 Glorifying God in Our Relationships



Summary

In most bibles this section is entitled "Rules for Christian households" and is a set of instructions to govern relationships in three areas, Marriage, Family and Work. These instructions obviously follow from the earlier theology which has laid out how everything is made through Christ, for Christ, that He might be pre-eminent in all. In Chapter 2 Paul says that all things must be done in the name of God, and putting on love.

In this context, Christian relationships are discussed, where God delights in the willing submission to authority by some and the benevolent exercising of power by others. In all these relationships the gospel is revealed by reflecting the Father and Son who labor together for the salvation of the world.

Key points

We are all ultimately called to be like Jesus. Our relationships must always reflect Him.

Questions

>> How does the reality of God and the work of Christ redefine your relationships at home and at work?

>> How can we prevent ourselves from thinking that someone in a position of authority has greater intrinsic worth?

>> How is rebellion against authority different from disagreement with authority?

>> How is submission different from weakness?

Final thought

Christ, our almighty and eternal Lord, showed us the ultimate example of submission in His submission to the Father, and the ultimate example of authority by His sacrifice for our sins.