
Sermon Notes

February 22, 2015

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Revised Relationships in Christ

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.

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

Renewed Relationships

- ❖ Knowing the facts of our faith in our heads is not enough
- ❖ Our lives must demonstrate the reality of our faith
- ❖ Christ's power in us has a dramatic impact on the kind and quality of relationships we share with one another
- ❖ Relationships in the home (husbands/wives; parents/children; masters/slaves) are all transformed by our new identity and our new orientation in Christ

Ground Rules for All Relationships

- ❖ Every Spirit-filled believer needs to be a humble, submissive Christian (Eph 5:21)
- ❖ Every believer in Jesus Christ has the same
 - salvation
 - standing before God
 - divine nature and resources
 - divine promises and inheritance
- ❖ No believer is superior to any other believer, but, in matters of role and function, God **has** made distinctions
 - The idea of submitting to authority is a **PROMINENT** feature within the New Testament (Jesus and His Father)

Wives and Husbands

- ❖ “When two men ride a horse, one must ride in front.”
- ❖ The submission of wives to husbands is willing and voluntary, just as it is in the case of Christ submitting to the will of His Father
- ❖ Submission is NOT
 - putting oneself in the position of being abused or treated as a doormat

- shutting off one's brain, subverting one's gifts or acting as the "silent partner" in the marriage

❖ Husbands are to love their wives **CONTINUOUSLY**

- this involves not only "feelings" of love, honor and respect, it requires the demonstration of them

- this is done through words **AND** actions

❖ Husbands are to love their wives in a self-sacrificial way

■ *do not be harsh with them*

- husbands are not to irritate or exasperate their wives, but rather to provide loving leadership in the home

Children and Parents

❖ That children are to honor and obey their parents is taught repeatedly in Scripture (Ex 20:12, 21:15-17, Lev 20:9, Deut 21:18-21)

- unless a parent demands something contrary to God's law, children are to obey their parents in everything

- the motivation for such obedience is that it *pleases the Lord*

❖ Fathers are not to provoke (*i.e.* exasperate, irritate, nag) their children

❖ Exasperating children causes them to lose heart and makes their spirits dry up within them

Slaves and Masters

❖ The NT accepts slavery as a social reality and seeks to instruct those in that system to behave in a godly manner

- in our day, these same principles are fully applicable to employee/employer relationships

- all godly relationships function as a two-way street

- whichever side of the equation you live on (slave or free) we are to obey God and honor each other in all things

❖ Whatever we do must be done with full heart/sincerity

- however we serve, in whatever we do, we are *servicing the Lord Christ*

- ultimate rewards come from the Lord

Personal Application

1. How has your new identity and your new orientation in Christ changed the way you relate to others?
2. Every Spirit-filled believer needs to be a humble, submissive Christian (Eph 5:21). How do humility and submission to Christ show-up in your life?
3. How is God speaking to you through these verses in Colossians about ways in which you can continue to grow in keeping Christ at the center of your relationships?
4. Do you do all you do with full heart/sincerity? How can you do this more consistently and/or more effectively?