

SUMMARY:

What changes do you want to make in light of this study?
Are there questions or issues that you need to work through further?

Preparation for next study:

- Read 4:2-18 twice
- What do we learn about Paul's heart from this passage?

COLOSSIANS FOUNDATIONS

STUDY 7: COLOSSIANS 3:18 – 4:1 JESUS AND DAILY LIFE

Start by praying for your study

Feedback from Preparation:

What excites and upsets you in these verses?

What principles do these instructions make practical?

Read the following passage in the group:

Colossians 3:18-4:6 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is your acceptable duty in the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they may lose heart. ²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything, not only while being watched and in order to please them, but wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, ²⁴ since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ For the wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever wrong has been done, and there is no partiality. ^{4:1} Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, for you know that you also have a Master in heaven. ² Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving...

³ At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison, ⁴ so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should. ⁵ Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.

What stood out to you from this passage?

JESUS AT HOME 3:18-21

¹⁸ Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is your acceptable duty in the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they may lose heart.

How do these verses rest on the foundation on what we looked at in the last session?

Where does Paul's model of family life challenge our cultural values?

How do the pairs of commands balance each other?

Where do these verses challenge your family life?

JESUS AT WORK 3:22-4:1

²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything, not only while being watched and in order to please them, but wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, ²⁴ since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ For the wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever wrong has been done, and there is no partiality. ^{4:1} Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, for you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

How do these verses relate to our work today?

What are the encouragements and warnings?

How do these verses challenge our attitudes and practice in our work?

JESUS IN THE WORLD 4:2-6

² Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison, ⁴ so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should. ⁵ Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.

To what end is Paul giving us instruction about our prayer, conduct and speech?

How can these verses shape the way we pray?

In what ways can we be wise towards outsiders?

How have you experienced people being gracious yet provocative with you?