



Group Guide

Pursue Christ at Home

April 6, 2025

Main Passage: Colossians 3:18–4:1

Theological Theme

In our text today, Paul gave instructions on how to create and foster God-honoring relationships in the home, addressing three household codes that were foundational to society in Paul's day.

Introduction

- ❓ Who was the most well-respected person in your home when you were growing up—your mom, your dad, one of your siblings, or you? Why was that the case?
- ❓ What rule did your parents establish that led to you being punished most often when you were a teenager? Why did you choose to break that rule?

1. Wives and Husbands (Colossians 3:18-19)

In our first section of text today, we'll look at the first household code Paul addressed: wives and husbands. Marriage relationships are healthiest when operating together and for the good of the marriage. Paul's writing in Colossians adds depth to the cohesive marriage relationship God has in mind for us.

- ❓ What does it mean for a wife to love her husband "as is fitting to the Lord" (v. 18)? Why is this crucial to understanding biblical submission?
- ❓ How did Paul's instruction to husbands work with his exhortation to wives?
- ❓ Application: How have you seen these traits present in a godly marriage?

2. Children and Parents (Colossians 3:20-21)

In this part of our text today, Paul's letter addressed another portion of his audience: households with children. To honor your parents is to respect them, and one way to do this, as a minor, is to obey. This is written not as an option but as a command for children. When children obey their parents in all things, "this pleases the Lord" (v. 20).

- ❓ What does it look like for children to obey their parents at various stages in life (v. 20)?
- ❓ Why is it important that parents not exasperate their children (v. 21)?
- ❓ Application: For those who are parents, how have you seen this dynamic play out with your own children? For those who are not, how did you see these dynamics at play in your home growing up?

3. Slaves and Masters (Colossians 3:22–4:1)

With the echoes of the unjust history of American slavery still reverberating in our culture today, this can be a hard section to read. It is important to understand that Paul addressed this household code because it was an established reality in his culture, not because he endorsed the idea of slavery as we know it or even the idea of slavery in his own day.

- ❓ What does it mean to not work “only while being watched” (v. 22)? Why does this matter?
- ❓ What does it mean to live our everyday routines for the Lord (v. 23)?
- ❓ Application: How can we apply this teaching to our lives now?

Conclusion

- ❓ For married couples and/or parents, how can you apply God’s teaching today? What about for those who are single or do not have children of their own? How can you support and encourage these relationships within our church body?
- ❓ How can we foster a culture of mutual love and submission within our church body as we submit to Jesus’s authority together?
- ❓ How can living in the ways Paul instructed give us opportunity to share the gospel with others?