



# COLOSSIANS

## Colossians 3:22 - 4:1

### Rooted in Christ's Design for Your Vocation

*By Andrew Farhat*

#### Getting Started

- *Larger LIFEGroups may consider splitting into same gender groups in order to facilitate more meaningful discussion.*
- *Groups will not have enough time to discuss every question. Leaders are encouraged to skip questions and make substitutions based on what's best for their group.*

#### Warm Ups (15 Min)

- Everyone go around and share a "High" from the week and a "Low" from the week.
- Tell the group what you do in an 8 hour day in 1 minute or less.

#### Scripture Study (30 Min)

- Read Colossians 3:22-4:1
- Scripture doesn't promote or endorse slavery, but does give instructions to slaves and masters. According to the Lutheran Study Bible: "Slavery in the Roman world was not associated with the oppression of any particular race. Slaves were most often prisoners of war taken from foreign lands, or non-Roman individuals sold by their families to repay a debt. Fair-skinned Britons and blond Germanic peoples were include in their number....While in service to their master, slaves earned wages, bought and sold property, entered into contracts, and owned slaves themselves. Frequently, Roman free persons sold themselves into slavery in order to repay debts, while non-Roman persons sold themselves in order to eventually obtain Roman citizenship....Notably, in his First letter to Timothy, Paul condemns those involved in 'kidnapping' persons to be sold in slavery, listing 'enslavers' among those especially deserving of the Law's condemnation (1 Tim. 1:10). (As Christianity spread

throughout the Roman Empire, it undermined the practice of slavery).” -page 101. The closest parallel to the 1st century slave/master relationship in modern times is voluntary indentured servitude.

- Paul says that our work is out of a healthy fear of the Lord (Col. 3:22) and for the Lord (3:23). How does this perspective change your motivation at work or wherever your station in life currently is?
- Why is your witness at work important to joining Jesus on His mission and being a good neighbor regardless of poor circumstances or a job you do not enjoy?
- If you are being treated unfairly, what does Paul say about the situation in 3:25?
- Employee: Do you see your employer in a position of authority over you?
- Employee: Describe the tension you feel in submitting to your boss while also desiring to make your own unique contribution.
- Employers: What does it look like to be fair to your employees?
- What does God want you to do as a result of this passage?

## **Group Prayer (15 Min)**

## **Trios (20 Min)**

*Same gender groups of three. If numbers are uneven, go to groups of two.*

- **Spiritual Velocity:**
  - How did you see God at work in your life this week?
  - What has God been teaching you in His Word as you've encountered it in this week's Life Journal readings, Sunday message, or LIFEGroup study?
  - What's an area of your life in which you know you need to repent or grow? How can we encourage you?
- **Joining Jesus on His Mission:**
  - What kind of conversations are you having with non-Christians? How's your 3-2-1 challenge going? Share about connections you're building and spiritual conversations you're having with non-believing neighbors and friends.
  - List the names of non-Christians in your life that you can pray for:  

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  - What good can we do around here? (Missional party? Service project?)
  - How can we help each other, our neighbors, and our city in prayer?