

JESUS' Design: The NEW Christian Family

Pt.3 - Colossians 3:18-4:1

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

NKJV - *"Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

4 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven."

ESP - *"Hijos, sean obedientes a sus padres en todo, porque esto es agradable al Señor. Padres, no exasperen a sus hijos, para que no se desalienten.*

Siervos, obedezcan en todo a sus amos en la tierra, no para ser vistos, como los que quieren agradar a los hombres, sino con sinceridad de corazón, temiendo al Señor.

Todo lo que hagan, háganlo de corazón, como para el Señor y no para los hombres, sabiendo que del Señor recibirán la recompensa de la herencia. Es a Cristo el Señor a quien sirven. Porque el que procede con injusticia sufrirá las consecuencias del mal que ha cometido, y eso, sin acepción de personas.

4 Amos, traten con justicia y equidad a sus siervos, sabiendo que ustedes también tienen un Señor en el cielo."

- Paul's great THEOLOGY is now working itself out very PRACTICALLY.

Your **Beliefs** ---> Your **Behavior**.

Your **Attitudes** ---> Your **Actions**.

Your **Doctrines** ---> Your **Deeds**.

Paul has been speaking on "putting off" the **OLD MAN**, and

"putting on" the **NEW MAN** in chapter 3....."How should the **NEW MAN** look in the different **RELATIONSHIPS** of your life??"

My Christianity should make a difference in **my home**, in **my marriage**, in **my office**, in **my community** - 2 Cor 5:17

Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

***AMP** - Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.*

"10 Property Laws of a Toddler" - 1. If I like it, **it's mine**. 2. If its in my hand, **it's mine**. 3. If I can take it from you, **it's mine**. 4. If I had it a little while ago, **it's mine**. 5. If **it's mine**, it must never appear to be yours in any way. 6. If I am building something, all of the pieces **are mine**. 7. If it looks like it's mine, **it's mine**. 8. If I saw it first, **it's mine**. 9. If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes **mine**. 10. If it's broken, it's yours.

"16 year old who wanted to drive the family car..."

***37%** of Americans have children **>18** years of age living at home...*

Children...obey your parents - Greek words "**teknon**" (children) and "**hypakouo**" (obey)

"teknon" - Is a child still in the care/household of their parents (regardless of age).

"hypakouo" - Is to respond to the knocking on the door, to listen to who it is (like a butler).

Paul has in mind children who are still in their parents' household and under their authority.

For these, they must not only *honor* their father and mother (as in Ephesians 6:2), but they must also *obey* them, and obey them in all things. When a child is grown and out of his parents' household, he is no longer under the same obligation of obedience, but the obligation to honor your father and mother remains.

in all things, - Not in only some areas, and not in others. The authority of a child's parents is to be respected and obeyed in all things, while under their care, and under their roof. (See **Luke 2:52**)

◦ **for this is well pleasing to the Lord.**

*When a child respects his PARENTS authority, **he is learning to respect God's order of authority in other areas of life:** School; Emploment; Society; Government; WITH GOD SPIRITUALLY & IN ETERNITY!!*

PERFECT EXAMPLE: JESUS!! Luke 2:51 **AMP** - "And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was [habitually] obedient to them.."

This idea of an order of authority and submission to an order of authority are so important to God that they are part of His very being. The First Person of the Holy Trinity is called the Father; the Second Person of the Holy Trinity is called the Son. Inherent in those titles is a relationship of authority and submission to authority.

The Father exercises authority over the Son, and the Son submits to the Father's authority - and this is in the very nature and being of God! Our failure to exercise Biblical authority, and our failure to submit to Biblical authority, isn't just wrong and sad - it sins against the very character and nature of God Himself!!

Remember **1 Samuel 15:23**....For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft!!

Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

AMP - Fathers, do not provoke or irritate or fret your children [do not be hard on them or harass them], lest they become discouraged and sullen and morose and feel inferior and frustrated. [Do not break their spirit.]

- *Time Spent: **School-16%** ; **Church-1%** ; **Home-83%***
- *Son asked his dad "**How much do you get paid per hour?**"...*
- **Fathers** - Did Paul know that this is a weakness for men **to be distracted??** (*Socrates*) (*Paul Witz - Atheism*)
 - Was Paul referring to the tendency of men **to be harsh??** (*Voice, power, job, upbringing,..*)
 - ****Speaking generally to both parents - but to Fathers as the Head of the home??**** ("*Pater*")
- **do not provoke your children,**
 - This was truly revolutionary - **fathers literally held the power of life and death** over their children in Greek and Roman society - "*Patria Potesta*" in the Roman Empire...picked up or left alone??
 - **Roman Statesman Seneca:** "*We slaughter a fierce ox; we strangle a mad dog; we plunge a knife into a sick cow; children who are born weak or deformed, we drown.*".....**the "Forum"**..slaves/prostitute!!
 - **Christian fathers have a responsibility to not provoke their children.** Parents can provoke their children by being too harsh, too demanding, too controlling, unforgiving, or just plain angry. This harshness can be expressed through words, through actions, or through non-verbal communication.
 - **In most parenting problems, the parent blames the child.** But Paul wisely reminds us that the bad behavior may actually be provoked by the parent. When this is the case, it doesn't justify the bad behavior of the child, but it may explain part of its cause.
 - **"Provoke":** Greek word "**erethizo**" - "*to stimulate, excite, stir up, provoke*"

- *"Irritate by exacting commands and perpetual faultfinding and interference for interference' sake."*
- **Peake**
- *"Parents, and specially fathers, are urged not to irritate their children by being so unreasonable in their demands that their children lose heart and come to think that it is useless trying to please their parents."*
- **Bruce**
- lest they **become discouraged.**
- *"athymeo" - "to be broken in spirit, disheartened, to have courage pulled out of you"*
- Children who grow up with parents who provoke them will become discouraged...season our parenting with lots of grace. **We should be as gracious, gentle, forgiving, and longsuffering with our children as God is with us.**
- **PERFECT EXAMPLE: JESUS!!** Heb 2:13 - *"Here I am and the children God has given Me."* (quoting Isaiah 8:18)

Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

- **AMP** - *"Servants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not only when their eyes are on you as pleasers of men, but in simplicity of purpose [with all your heart] because of your reverence for the Lord and as a sincere expression of your devotion to Him. Whatever may be your task, work at it heartily (from the soul), as [something done] for the Lord and not for men, Knowing [with all certainty] that [The One Whom] you are actually serving [is] the Lord Christ (the Messiah). For he who deals wrongfully will [reap the fruit of his folly and] be punished for his wrongdoing.*

- **obey in all things your masters according to the flesh,**
- **AMP** - "Servants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters,.."
- **"More than half the people seen on the streets of the great cities of the Roman world were slaves. And this was the status of the majority of 'professional' people such as teachers and doctors as well as that of menials and craftsmen." - Vaughan**

- **Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God:**
- **AMP** - "..not only when their eyes are on you as pleasers of men, but in simplicity of purpose [with all your heart] because of your reverence for the Lord and as a sincere expression of your devotion to Him."
- **"Far more culpable is the attitude of modern 'clockwatchers' who have contracted to serve their employer and receive an agreed remuneration for their labor. But Christian slaves - or Christian employees today - have the highest of all motives for faithful and conscientious performance of duty; they are above all else servants of Christ, and will work first and foremost so as to please him." - Bruce**

- **And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance;**
- **AMP** - "..it is from the Lord [and not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [real] reward."
- **"One should properly read 'the inheritance'; the reference is clearly to the life of the age to come. This is ironic, since in earthly terms slaves could not inherit property." - Wright**

- **For you serve the Lord Christ:**
- *"The force of this unusual phrase (Paul nowhere else allows the titles 'Lord' and 'Christ' to stand together without the name 'Jesus' as well) could be brought out by a paraphrase: '**so work for the true Master - Christ!**' " - Wright*

- **Will be repaid . . . and there is no partiality:**
- **AMP** - *"And [with God] there is no partiality [no matter what a person's position may be, whether he is the slave or the master]."*
- **For ancient Christian slaves and for modern Christian workers, there is no guarantee on earth of fairness of treatment from those whom they work for.** Paul assures both our ancient brethren and us that there is a final rewarding and punishment, and with this there is no partiality.

- **PERFECT EXAMPLE: JESUS!!** Phil 2:5-7 **AMP** - *"Let this same attitude and purpose and [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:] Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained, But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being."*

Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

- **AMP** - **MASTERS**, *[on your part] deal with your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that also you have a Master in heaven.*

- **give your bondservants what is just and fair,**

- As Christians put on the new man, they will be just and fair to those who work for them. **It is a terrible thing for a boss to cheat or mistreat his workers, but far worse for a Christian to do it.**
- **Through the history of Christianity, there have been some who used these passages where Paul speaks to slaves and their masters to justify or even promote the practice of slavery.** Others have blamed these passages for the practice of slavery. Yet one can never blame Christianity for slavery; it was a universal practice that pre-dated both Christianity and the Jewish nation. Instead, one should see that *the abolition of slavery came from Christian people and impulses, and not from any other major religion and certainly not from secularism.*
- Without making an overt protest against slavery, Paul seemed to understand that if he could establish **the point that slaves were equals in the body of Christ, full human beings with both responsibilities and rights** (that they should be treated in a manner both just and fair), then in time the whole structure of slavery in the Roman Empire would crumble - and it did.
 - *knowing that **you also have a Master in heaven.***
 - Every Christian master would do well to remind themselves that they themselves are slaves to their Master: Christ. Paul is here reminding them to treat their servants as they would like for their Heavenly Master to treat them.
 - **PERFECT EXAMPLE: JESUS!!** He is our "Lord Jesus Christ", but He is just, fair, gracious and kind to us!

• **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

- 1 As a **WIFE**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing willing submission and respect to your husband?

- 2 As a **HUSBAND**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing sacrificial and self-giving agape love to your wife?
 - 3 As a **CHILD**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing willing obedience and honor to your parents in all things?
 - 4 As a **FATHER**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing gentleness and encouragement to your children?
 - 5 As a **SERVANT-EMPLOYEE**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing diligence, hardwork, and honesty to your employer?
- As an **EMPLOYEE**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing fair treatment and compensation to your employees?