

Living Under the Lordship of Christ
Household Principles – Slaves and Masters
Colossians 3:18-4:1

Big Themes

There are some big themes which all need to be explored and connected to one another and to the broader message of Colossians. Let me give you three that are more or less obvious from this passage:

- Submission
- Obedience
- Authority

Lordship

Throughout the book of Colossians, we have seen the Lordship of Christ:

In chapter three and Paul begins to apply the Lordship of Christ in very personal ways:

We, as true followers of Jesus, are no longer controlled by the sin nature –rather, Jesus now reigns in us and his life is being lived in us.

Because Christ is Lord of our personal lives, he is also Lord of our relationships.

Authority

We have a love / hate relationship with authority.

- All of us want to be in authority
- We all understand a need for authority
- We all want to limit the authority over us

Authority's Expectations

Compliance

Responsibility

Benevolence

Paul is going to develop these themes in the context of Christian households

Husband / Wife relationship

Father (parent) / Child relationship

Master / Slave relationship

Slaves and Masters

Masters:

Masters are instructed to treat slaves justly and fairly.

Masters were to understand they fell under a greater authority.

Slaves:

Obey in everything

Serve well

Applications:

1. No matter what our circumstance, we still have the ability to make choices as to our thinking and behavior.
2. Disregard for authority should always be treated with extreme caution.
3. Positions of authority should always be buffered by and understanding of God's authority.
4. We should understand the connection between the work we do occupationally and how it connects to and reflects upon the work we do for Christ.