



COLOSSIANS Course, Session Five

Text: Col 3:18 – 4:18

Summary of Colossians

1. Jesus the One and Only – Why did the Colossians need to hear this?

2. Being, not Doing – Why does Paul start with our Identity before giving directions?

3. Taking Off the Old Life, Putting on the New Life – what does Paul accomplish for his readers by using this ‘unclothing, then clothing’ image?

4. How is 3:17 a perfect lead-in for what will follow: *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him?* (Col 3:17).

Colossians 3:18-21

5. What would have been revolutionary – and challenging – to hear in these directions to wives and husbands in verses 18-19 (think about each of these, separately)? How counter-cultural are these, both then and now? Give some time to consider each of the directions, one by one.

6. Why do you think Paul provides directions like this – identical to the word in some respects but expanded in Ephesians -- in two of his existing letters? Feel free to look at Ephesians 5:22-33.

7. How to do these directions in 3:18-19 give us an illustration of how “*whatever you do, in word or deed, you do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him?*” impacts the ways you as a husband or a wife interact?

8. Consider one or two things that can be changed or added in your role as a spouse to make this become more true, more evident in your homes.

9. For verses 20-21, fathers, what does honoring Christ in word and deed look like in the context of your relationship with your children? Do you struggle with the desire to control your children rather than giving clear direction and wise guidance?

Colossians 3:22-4:1

10. What are some practical and appropriate ways to take these instructions to slaves and masters and apply to our employee-employer relationships?

11. In the video the idea was presented that *Within the new Kingdom Jesus launched, Power is no longer the definer of relationships, but a mutual understanding and trust.* Power and control still hold sway *outside* God's new Kingdom, so what does this mean for our lives today? How do we live as members of one Kingdom but in the midst of another one?

Colossians 4:2-6

12. Which of these brief, almost-urgent directions in these verses are the most challenging to make into habits? Taken as a set, summarize what they communicate to you.

13. Often our prayers concentrate on the medical needs of others. While those can be genuine needs, what do these verses suggest to you about the ways and the focus of our praying?

14. "*Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*" Can you think of ways you try to do this in your relationships with those that are not believers? Can you think of any ways you can begin to be more intentional about this?

15. How do these final instructions fit with 3:17? "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Series Summary

16. Go back through Colossians and identify your own favorite verse of this little letter. Will you consider memorizing it so that when you recall it to memory, the message of the whole letter comes to mind for you? _____
17. Verses 4:7-18 give us a peek into the lives that populated Paul's own life as he did ministry. Make your own list of people that have impacted your day-to-day Christian life, both today and in the past, and be thankful for them as Paul is for his.
-

We hope you will go back and reread Colossians from time to time – either in one sitting or in smaller segments. It is a terrific summation of so much that is central and basic to our lives as Christ-followers!

You're done now! Thank you for participating in this study of Colossians!

|