



Series: Life With Jesus – Week 7

Sermon Title: Godly Choices

Date: 10/15/2023

Colossians 3:18-4:1

These are the instructions the Holy Spirit has preserved for you and me. And Paul's words speak as loudly today as they did 1900 years ago. Why are these specific instructions here? God knows we need them!

Big Idea: Fulfill the roles God has given you

This passage reveals faith-filled choices for us in three areas of life.

1. Choices at Home (Wives)

How counter-cultural are those instructions today? First scripture speaks to **Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord**. The original Greek language indicates that this is a personal choice a wife can make.

A wife chooses independence over oneness, withholding respect and refusing the responsibility God gives her husband. But no one chooses submission as if they are the only ones. The phrase – “**as is fitting in the Lord**” reminds us of the ways every follower of Jesus – male and female are encouraged to submit to God's word:

Ephesians 5:21, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 2:13-15, 1 Peter 5:5-7, 1 Corinthians 11:3

1. Choices at Home (Husbands)

Colossians 3:19

Over and over again, God commands men to unconditionally care for their wives with the same type of love God offers to people through Jesus. Sacrificial love expressed through attitudes and actions. Husbands choose to love unconditionally.

1. Choices at Home (Children)

Colossians 3:20

This verse speaks directly to YOUNG children. The implied temptation is rebelliousness many times simply brought on by curiosity, missed expectations, internal temperament, independence, anger, or stress.

1. Choices at Home (Fathers)

Colossians 3:20

This verse speaks to the special role fathers play in the lives of children. The implied temptation is only showing negative attention. The solution: Dads of young children: spend time with them.

2. Choices at Work

Colossians 3:22-25

In the Roman Culture Paul was writing to, there were slaves. Under Roman law, enslaved people had no personal rights and were regarded as the property of their masters. What's the implied temptation? The same then as it is today: Disobedience, disrespect, laziness, theft, deception.

3. Choices in leadership

Colossians 4:1

Many leaders struggle with treating people with respect and remembering we are all the same. This is the final call to follow Jesus, not feelings, because a good leader always remembers you, too, have a master – Jesus.

The implied temptation for leaders to be heavy-handed, treat employees differently based upon their own attitude or be dishonorable in their treatment of subordinates.

God's ways build up one another, lead to peace, and preserve life. The moment we choose another path – we head towards the strife of life.

If you don't live a life guided by God's word, who will?

Timeless Truth: the ways of Jesus are counter-cultural. Then and now... these instructions go against the grain of sinful human nature.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **How can working hard impact your testimony?**
- **Wives, when is it easy to place yourself within your husband's leadership and responsibility? Why is it important to do so?**
- **Husbands, explain how you sacrificially love your wives?**
- **Leaders, what are some characteristics you have/ can have that make people want to follow you?**