

I. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1:

Station Rules

Colossians 3:18-4:1

Slide 2:

Colossians 3:18-4:1 (ESV)

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

Slide 3:

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Slide 4:

Paul was teaching them how to make all of life a win/win.

Slide 5:

I. What do these verses tell us about the nature of the Gospel, and how it is intended to work in our real lives?

II. What is the overarching eternal Christian ethic that is intended to rule over all of them?

III. Where do we find the power to display the Gospel in any circumstance or station in life?

Slide 6:

How does the Gospel work? How does the Bible work?

Slide 7:

The hope in this text is that Paul is giving them something to do with the Gospel even if they couldn't control anything else.

Slide 8:

What is the ruling ethic over all?

Love

Slide 9:

Paul is not asking from any one member of the community what he is not also asking of every member of the community.

Slide 10:

What is the motivating power that enables our responses?

Slide 11:

The Gospel is delivered, not through the assertion of rights, but through the laying down of rights.

Slide 12:

We miss transformation and the joy of the Gospel in favor of our ideas of fairness.

II. GROUP DISCUSSION

1) Read Colossians 3:18-4:1. Is this a difficult text to read in our world today? Why or why not? Would it have been hard to read 2,000 years ago?

2) In what way does the Gospel allow us to apply it so that all of life can become a win/win?

3) Why was it important for Paul to address these relationships, and give them rules to guide them?

4) How did the idea of Christian love (as exhibited by Christ) enable them (and us) to be bound together in whatever role they found themselves?

5) How does the Gospel provide us with power in powerless situations, and give us gentleness, humility and loving service in powerful positions?

6) Prayer and praise