

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"SUNDAY SAVIOR?" | COLOSSIANS 3:18-4:6 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

- Imagine meeting someone for the first time, what would be clues that showed Jesus was Lord to them?

"Christ In the Home" Colossians 3: 18-21

Believers let Christ impact their family relationships: wives submit, husbands love gently, children obey and parents encourage.

- What is the tone or atmosphere of your home?
- What are ways to honor God in your family relationships?

"Christ In the Workplace" Colossians 3: 22 – 4:1

Believers recognize that they should work and lead with Jesus in mind, with sincerity and integrity.

- What are practical ways to work that shows Jesus is the Lord?
- What are ways to lead so that people flourish?

"Christ In Our Prayer Life" Colossians 4: 2-4

Believers pray continually, being watchful and thankful because it's a lifestyle from being focused on Jesus.

- What does it look like to have a lifestyle of prayer?
- What opportunities for the Gospel to be shared has God put before you to pray about?

"Christ Before the Watching World" Colossians 4: 5-6

Believers recognize they should make the most of life to impact others for Jesus with how they live and talk, showing grace.

- How can believers be better at being vulnerable and authentic?
- Who is an example in your life of someone who's speech is gracious?

REFLECTION AND APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Paul tells Christ followers that every relationship: the ones at home, at work, in the community; they all should show Jesus is Lord of their life. The Gospel goes forward when Jesus goes from being the Sunday Savior to our everyday Lord.

- Have you been trying to keep your faith in a box or allowing Jesus to rule every part of life?
- What is one way you can renew your commitment to pray continually this week?
- Ask God to show you areas of life you've been trying to control and then surrender them to Jesus.

Sunday Savior?

I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those watching online 10am.
- B. Slide1-3 Worship Night. Men's Grill & Chill. Missions Prayer.
- C. *Also: If you want to invest in the next generation. 3 HS Camp Sponsorships are needed. \$220 per sponsorship. Check or dropdown (camp donations/sponsorships).
- D. Slide4 Prayer: God we place our big heads and puny lil minds under Your jurisdiction, Your supremacy, and Your beautiful watch-care this morning.

II. Slide5 Intro: Sunday Savior?

- A. A Popular music-artist became a Christian and he was asked in an interview, *Are you a Christian music-artist now?* to which he said, *I'm a Christian-everything now!* [Jimmy Kimmel to Kanye West. controversies & bipolar disorder]
- B. As we look over this passage, one phrase keeps popping up: *Whatever you do...* (3:17, 23) *Whatever you do*, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. This is our golden thread for our text.
 - 1. Key: Jesus is not looking for a *part* of our life. He is Lord over *every part* of our life.
- C. We will move through our text asking 6 questions: Is He Lord of your marriage? Is He Lord of your parenting? Is He Lord of your work? Is He Lord of your prayer life? Is He Lord of your witness? Is He Lord of your conversations?
 - 1. This will keep our text from becoming 6 disconnected topics. Instead, they will all answer one question: *What does the Lordship of Christ look like on an ordinary Tuesday?*
 - a) This will also set up our last text *next week*, where Paul will show that *Ordinary people - faithfully living under Christ's lordship - is how the gospel advances.*

D. If you do a quick fly-over of our section this morning it looks like **Paul is writing 6 mini-sermons on:** marriage, parenting, work, prayer, witnessing, our conversations. **Nope**, he's writing **1 sermon** with **5 illustrations**.

1. **It's a reminder to us** *not* to divide your life into compartments: *church life, family life, work life, and your private life*.
 - a) It reminds me of a quote I heard about an episode of **The Simpsons** where **Homer** tries to say something theological. They are standing around looking at a **huge church** when he says, "*Well, I may not know much about God, but I have to say - we built a pretty nice cage for Him.*" [no I've never seen an episode, ha.]
 - b) **But** Jesus refuses to stay in one compartment. *He's very Houdini-esque that way*). Stick Him in a box - escapes every time. **Eg. tomb**.

E. He doesn't simply want to be your **Sunday Savior**, but **your Lord every day**.

F. As **John** had a famous 3:16, we read **Paul's** 3:16 last week, *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly*. (Dwell - to make oneself at home).

1. **As we have invited Christ's Word to make itself at home in our hearts**. **Now** he shows us what happens when Christ is truly **at home in:** *our homes, our workplaces, our prayer closets, our streets, & in our conversations*.

G. Theme: **The Lordship of Christ in everyday relationships**.

H. Big Idea: *Jesus transforms **ordinary relationships** into **acts of worship***.

- I. **So, who sees the real you?** Not the people sitting next to you in church, but the people who **live with you**, or **work beside you**, the people who **know your habits**, your **moods**, your **tone**, your **patience**, your **reactions**.
 1. **Oh you can impress a congregation for an hour**. It's much harder to impress your family for **24 hours**.

J. Paul says, *The Gospel should first be visible at home*.

1. **Real spirituality is remarkably ordinary**.

III. Slide6 **1. CHRIST IN THE HOME (3:18-21)**

A. **18 Wives**, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. **19 Husbands**, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. **20 Children**, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. **21 Fathers**, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

1. Note: Paul addresses both sides of every relationship. Christianity always elevates **mutual responsibility**.

B. **Wives** - *Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

1. **Submission is not inferiority**. Jesus submitted to the Father, **and** the Son never became less equal.
2. **Submission is about God-given order**, **not** greater worth.
3. Notice: *As is fitting in the Lord* (i.e. not blind *and* absolute submission).
Christ defines submission: Not culture. Not abuse. Not domination.

C. **Husbands** - *Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.*

1. **Love** isn't merely **affection**, it's **sacrificial leadership**.
2. The husband is never commanded to rule. **He's commanded to lead and especially to love**. [To Lead = leading her to depend on Christ, **not** on himself. To Love = spiritually, sacrificially, sensitively]
3. **The standard** isn't Roman culture nor American culture. **It's Christ**.

D. **Marriage Q**: Am I making it easier or harder for my spouse to follow Christ?

E. **Children** - Obedience is one of the *earliest ways* children learn to **honor God**.

F. **Fathers** - Paul doesn't say, "*Don't discipline*." He says, *Don't discourage*.

1. **Don't crush their spirit**. Lead firmly. Love deeply. Encourage constantly.

G. **Parents help set the emotional climate of a home**. I know we are in unprecedented territory. I read **Dr. Tim Elmore's** book *Marching Off The Map*. He talked about Alexander the Great who wasn't satisfied conquering the **known** world, **so** he marched into **unknown** territory. **He made some of his soldiers map makers** (cartographer) **literally making maps as they marched**. - It sounds cliché, but kids today are growing up in a radically different world than we did, **it's time for new maps to guide them into this new territory**.

1. This is the first generation that: doesn't need adults to get information. Can broadcast there every thought or emotion in real-time. Has external stimuli at their fingertips 24/7. Are socially connected at all times but often they connect in isolation. Will learn more from a portable device than from a classroom. Uses a phone that tells time, provides entertainment, takes pictures, gives directions, connects with friends and broadcasts their messages. Designed to make life simpler, this nonstop information center has made them *the most stressed out generation to date*. [They need help navigating all of this] Lead firmly. Love deeply. Encourage constantly.

H. Parents Q: What atmosphere do I create in my home?

IV. Slide7a 2. CHRIST IN THE WORKPLACE (3:22-4:1)

- A. 22 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. 23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. 25 For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. 4:1 Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.
- B. Although Paul addresses *slaves and masters*, the principles extend naturally to *employees and employers* today.
 1. Paul completely changes the motivation.
 2. Notice the repeated phrase. "As is fitting in the Lord." - "Fearing the Lord." "You are serving the Lord Christ."
- C. Work Becomes Worship
 1. Slide7b Four workplace principles: Work sincerely. Work wholeheartedly. Work with integrity. Work knowing Christ sees everything.
 2. The Christian's ultimate supervisor is never merely the boss. It's Jesus.
- D. Employers - Lead fairly. Lead justly.
 1. Remember, you also have a Master. Authority is stewardship.

E. Illustration: Martin Luther said the maid milking cows and the pastor preaching sermons both glorify God when serving faithfully.

1. God is honored *not only in church work... but in faithful work!*

F. **Employees Q:** Would I work differently if Jesus were my supervisor? (He is!)

G. **Employers Q:** Do people flourish under my leadership?

V. Slide8a 3. CHRIST IN OUR PRAYER LIFE (4:2-4)

A. 2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

B. Paul moves from the home - to work - to prayer.

1. Prayer isn't occasional. It's **continual**. (*continue steadfastly*)

a) Slide8b Or (NLT) Devote yourselves - Prayer is not an emergency button. **It's a lifestyle.**

2. **Watchful** - Stay spiritually awake. **Thankful** - because gratitude keeps prayer from becoming *self-centered*.

C. **Pray for open doors** - Interestingly, Paul doesn't ask for *prison doors* to open. He asks for **Gospel doors to open**. (even chained, his concern is **mission**).

D. **Prayer Q:** What open door is God inviting me to pray for?

VI. Slide9 4. CHRIST BEFORE THE WATCHING WORLD (4:5-6)

A. 5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

B. Now Paul turns **outward**.

1. The Christian life **isn't private**. People are **watching**.

C. **Walk in wisdom towards outsiders** - or *live carefully*, not fearfully - but *wisely*. Every interaction matters.

- D. **Make the best use of time** - Literally, *buy up every opportunity*. Or *redeem the time, make the most of every opportunity*,
1. See interruptions differently. Some interruptions become *divine appointments*.
- E. **Let your speech always be gracious** - Imagine if every conversation was characterized by *grace*. Not compromise, *grace*.
- F. **Seasoned with salt** - *Salt preserves. Salt flavors. Salt creates thirst*. Christian speech should do all 3.
1. People should leave conversations wanting more of Christ.
 2. Illustration: Think about seasoning. Too little/*bland*. Too much/*overpowering*. The Gospel seasoned with *grace* becomes *attractive*. Truth without *grace wounds*, grace without truth *weakens*. Jesus embodied *both*.
- G. **Witness Q**: Would people describe my speech as gracious?

VII.Slide10 CHRIST CONNECTION

- A. **Jesus perfectly fulfilled every relationship**: As a **Son**, He obeyed. As the **Bridegroom**, He loved sacrificially. As a **Worker**, He faithfully accomplished the Father's will. As our **Master**, He is perfectly just. As our **Intercessor**, He continually prays for us. As our **Witness**, He spoke with both truth and grace.
1. The relationships Paul commands... Jesus perfectly modeled.
- B. Long before people read the Bible... they read **us**!
1. They watch how we: *love our spouse, speak to our children, treat coworkers, respond under pressure, handle conflict, talk to strangers*.
 2. Paul is saying, The Gospel is most believable when it is most visible.
- C. The strongest evidence that **Christ** rules your heart is **not** what happens on *Sunday morning*. It's what happens around the dinner table on Monday night and in the workplace on *Tuesday morning*.
1. Real spirituality is remarkably ordinary!

D. Most people think the greatest evidence of Christianity is found in *a church service*.

1. Paul disagrees. He says the greatest evidence is found in: *your kitchen, your dining room, your office, your classroom, your neighborhood, your text messages, your responses on IG, and in your conversations.*

E. **Slide11 Last Observation:** Notice how often Paul uses the word *Lord* in this section. He repeatedly points **every relationship** back to Christ: [or we can say, every section comes back to one question: *Who is Lord here?*]

1. “as is fitting in the Lord” (3:18)
2. “this pleases the Lord” (3:20)
3. “fearing the Lord” (3:22)
4. “from the Lord you will receive the inheritance” (3:24)
5. “you are serving the Lord Christ” (3:24)
6. “you also have a Master in heaven” (4:1)
7. “that God may open to us a door for the word” (4:3, *implied mission under Christ’s authority*)

F. Paul’s point **isn’t** primarily **how to have a better marriage** or **how to be a better employee**. His point is that **every relationship** is lived before **the face of Christ**.

1. Jesus isn’t just Lord of the sanctuary - He’s Lord of *the living room, the workplace, and every ordinary moment in between.*

a) **Slide12 Jesus ... *Sunday Savior*, or ... **your every day Lord?****

G. Keywords: home, workplace, prayer, speech.