

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Prison Letters
Colossians 3:18 – 4:1

Last time...instruction in walking with Jesus in this world

1. mortify...take the lusts of the flesh off of “life support”
2. put off...the old man
3. put on...the new man
4. let...the peace of God and the Word of God govern your life

This time...applying this instruction in our relationships

Matt 22:36-40 love God and others with the love of God

The love of Jesus is to be evident in our relationships

Col 3:12-17

Our relationships are to be governed by

- the peace of God...found in the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ
- the Word of God...the Word made flesh, the Lord Jesus Christ
- the name/Authority/Lordship of Jesus Christ

In Col 3:18 – 4:1 are the “building block” relationships for the followers of Jesus Christ

- wives and husbands
- children and fathers
- servants/employees and masters/employers

Parallel instruction in righteousness is found in Eph 5:22 – 6:9, the foundation for which is, “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”
(Eph 5:21)

God is the God of order, not the author of confusion

In order is life and light, in confusion is death and darkness

God’s order is based on humility and submission

Orderly relationships are built on humility and submission

Jesus Christ is our Model, humbling Himself to His Father and submitting His will to the Father’s will whereby He did and said what the Father sent Him to do and to say

On 3 separate occasions, Jesus taught, **Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.**

And He does not instruct us to do what He Himself has not done...

He has done what He instructs us to do

Phil 2:5-11

Moving forward,

Phil 2:12-16a
Matt 23:8-10
Matt 23:11-12

which starts in our “building block” relationships

Matt 23:8-10

which starts in our “building block” relationships

Instruction in Christ-likeness

- walking with Jesus
- order
 - humility
 - submission

- v18 Who: Wives

- What: submit to the order of the Sovereign God (I AM the LORD)
1 Cor 11:3 I would have you know, that the head of every man
is Christ; and the head of the woman *is* the man;
and the head of Christ *is* God.

To whom: your own husband (no other husband)

- sons of the King, to be treated accordingly
- the first person to whom you are a witness and minister of Jesus Christ

- Eph 5:22 as unto the Lord
Eph 5:23-24 as the Church/Bride does to Jesus Christ

Why: to do so is fit/proper/pleasing to the Lord

- Supreme Authority of all
- Ruler of the 3-person relationship of marriage

- How: v23-25

whatsoever you do...without exception
do...labor (Self dying every day, humility and submission are not easy!)
heartily...with every ounce of our being, with the heart of our Father
as to the Lord...as if you were doing it directly to and for Jesus,
the Lord of the relationship, our Audience of One
Ps 103:2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his
benefits/goodwill/treatment of us

Ps 116:12-13 What shall I render unto the LORD *for* all his
benefits toward me? I will take the cup of
salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD.

Royal Law starts in the marriage
and not unto men...merely for show or self-gain, nor for the applause of
men like the hypocrites do

knowing...because the God who does not fail and cannot lie so said
that of the Lord...from the Lord Jesus Christ
ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance...eternal life of Christ,
the kingdom of heaven, Matt 5:5, "pay day later and far better!"

Rev 22:12 *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with
me, to give every man according as his work shall
be.*

for ye serve the Lord Christ...remember Who is Lord and that He is
v12-13 and He loves us all equally

but he that does wrong/unjustly/selfishly (vs right/just/Matt 22:36-40)

The Lord is watching and listening!

He knows our hearts and our thoughts before we do!

He is perfectly just and uncompromisingly holy!

He plays no favorites

v19 Who: Husbands

- sons of the King
- witnesses and followers of Jesus Christ...John 15:12
- head of household, by the Sovereign plan of God
- a minister of the Gospel, accountable to the Lord

Whom: your wives

- daughters of the King, to be treated accordingly
- the first person to whom you are a witness and minister of
Jesus Christ

What: love/agape...selfless, self-last, sacrificial, supernatural love of God
Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also
loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Love her by loving Jesus Christ and giving her Christ's love
Lead her by following Jesus Christ

be not bitter toward...to be bitter AND/OR to make bitter...
harsh, disagreeable, miserable, nasty

(Why): Jesus

- Supreme Authority
- Ruler of the 3-person relationship of marriage

is not bitter toward/harsh/disagreeable/miserable/nasty with His Bride!

How: v23-25

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v20 Who: Children

- Children of the King (Ezk 18:4a)
- a heritage/blessing of the LORD, fruit of the womb that is His
reward (Ps 127:3)
- witnesses and ministers of Jesus

What: obey in all things, trust to have your best interest in heart, lean on, love,
honor/respect, submit to (to be orderly) to gain understanding

Whom: your parents

- the God-given authority over your life for your good
- the first people to whom you are a witness and minister of Jesus Christ

Why: this is well-pleasing (well-doing) unto the Lord

- Supreme Authority
- Ruler of the relationship
- The God of order

Eph 6:1b-3 for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

(When): now and later

Prov 23:22 Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old
(when they are voices of experience and wisdom)

How: v23-25

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do...labor (Self dying every day, humility and submission are not easy!)
heartily...with every ounce of our being, with the heart of our Father,
as to the Lord...as if you were doing it directly to and for Jesus,
the Lord of the relationship, our Audience of One
and not unto men...merely for show or self-gain, nor for the applause of
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knowing...because the God who does not fail and cannot lie so said
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but he that does wrong/unjustly/selfishly (vs right/just/Matt 22:36-40)
The Lord is watching and listening!
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He is just and holy!
He cannot be tricked or bought off, He plays no favorites

v21	Who:	<p>Fathers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heads of household, given the responsibility and the accountability to lead his family • establishers and defenders of the boundaries within which his children are safe • witnesses and ministers of Jesus
	What:	<p>provoke not <i>to anger or to tears or to despair etc</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tease mercilessly or maliciously for your own self-enjoyment • berate them or their mother • disparage them or their mother • pit them against each other • yell and scream at, having no control of your tongue
	Whom:	<p>your children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a wonderful blessing from the Lord • after your wife, the first people to whom you are a witness and minister of Jesus Christ
	Why:	<p>they, the children of the King, be not discouraged/disheartened/defeated (but be encouraged!)</p>
		<p>Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture (education, instruction, correction) and admonition (gentle warning) of the Lord.</p> <p>Consequences!</p>
		<p>1 Cor 14:3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men <i>to</i> edification, and exhortation, and comfort.</p>
		<p>Love by loving the Lord and giving them the love of the Lord</p> <p>Lead by following the Lord</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supreme Authority • Ruler of the relationship
		<p>Ps 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it</p>
		<p>1 Cor 4:15-16 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet <i>have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.</i></p>
		<p>Phil 3:12-14, 17</p>

How:

v23-25

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knowing...because the God who does not fail and cannot lie so said
that of the Lord...from the Lord Jesus Christ
ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance...eternal life of Christ,
the kingdom of heaven, Matt 5:5, "pay day later and better!"
for ye serve the Lord Christ...remember Who is Lord and that He is
v12-13 and He loves us all equally

but he that does wrong/unjustly/selfishly (vs right/just/Matt 22:36-40)
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v22

Who:

Servants

- employees/workers
- witnesses and ministers of Jesus

What:

obey in all things, trust to have your best interest in heart, lean on, love,
honor/respect, submit to (to be orderly)

Whom:

your masters

- employers, supervisors, managers in the workplace
- you are a witness and minister of Jesus Christ to

How:

not with eyeservice as menpleasers

- a slacker, being busy only when he/she is watching
- seeking the praise and applause of men only
- a divided heart, seeking one's own best interest

but in singleness of heart, revering God who gave you the job

- Eph 6:6-8
- a heart after God's own heart seeking the best interest of others
- being the best employee your employer has
- working for the success of your employer

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Ch 4:1 Who:

Masters

- employers/supervisors/managers
- witnesses and ministers of Jesus

What:

give that which is just/fair and equal/equitable (even generous!),
devoid of cronyism or favoritism or discrimination

Jer 22:13

Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness,
and his chambers by wrong; *that* useth his neighbour's
service without wages, and giveth him not for his work

Jer 22:17a

thine eyes and thine heart *are* not but for thy covetousness

Whom:

your employees/workers

- you are a witness and a minister of Jesus Christ to

Why:

knowing that you also have a Master in heaven!
Who is watching and listening!

How:

Ch 3:23-25

whatsoever you do...without exception
do...labor (Self dying every day, humility and submission are not easy!)
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John 3:30

Self is to die daily
Jesus is to live daily

The love of Jesus is to be evident in our relationships
Our relationships being governed by

- the peace of God...found in the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ
- the Word of God...the Word made flesh, the Lord Jesus Christ
- the name/Authority/Lordship of Jesus Christ

The “building block” relationships for the followers of Jesus Christ...witnesses and ministers of
Jesus Christ

- wives and husbands (Ch 3:16, the most beautiful song being Song of Solomon!)
- children and fathers
- servants/employees and masters/employers

3 pairs, 3 “coins” with 2 sides

What one side of the coin does is not dependent upon or conditional upon what the other side does

Both sides are dependent upon and accountable to the Lord (Phil 4:13)
as both sides submit to God’s order

- by faith

True faith is seen and heard at home and work!

Fruit pleasing to the Father of our abiding in Jesus the

True Vine is seen at home and work

- empowered by the Holy Spirit to be a witness of Jesus Christ
and are rewarded for doing so as we serve the Lord our God with
joyfulness and gladness of heart

1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always
abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour
is not in vain in the Lord.

Is 49:4b surely my judgment *is* with the LORD, and my work with my God.

If we walk with Jesus in our relationships...do our part in a Christ-like relationship...
we will be lights in a very dark and confused world

We will stand before the judgment seat of Christ for how we witnessed of and ministered
to Him in all our relationships, starting with these

May God help us!

May we cry out for God’s help as we lay down our lives/wills for the benefit of others
and for the glory of God our Father!