

JESUS >

A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

March 21, 2021

Pastor Glenn Gunderson

JESUS > RELATIONSHIPS

“Jesus is the Lord of our Relationships”

COLOSSIANS 3:18 - COLOSSIANS 4:1

WIVES AND HUSBANDS

COLOSSIANS 3:18-19

EPHESIANS 5:21

“You have to look for opportunities to outserve each other.”

Corrie Myers

“Submission is the willingness to give up our right to ourselves, to freely surrender our insistence on having our own way all the time.”

Myles Munroe

“(During the pandemic) the ‘soulmate’ model of marriage will most likely fade and a ‘family-first’ model of marriage will emerge. This ‘family-first’ marital environment will be stronger, more stable, and more likely to offer a secure harbor for children..... the Church is especially well positioned to play a supportive role in this ‘till death do us part’ model of marriage, both within the pews and in the broader community. Research from the Institute for Family Studies finds that couples who stay actively involved in their religious communities and pray together are much more likely to enjoy vibrant marriages.”

Alysse Elhage and W. Bradford Wilcox

GENESIS 3:16

"The noble calling to rule and subdue the earth in God's name was perverted, as male and female tried to rule and subdue each other."

Carolyn Custis James

EPHESIANS 5:22-23

PARENTS AND CHILDREN

COLOSSIANS 3:20-21

EPHESIANS 6:1-3

DEUTERONOMY 5:16

SLAVES/EMPLOYEES AND MASTERS/EMPLOYERS

COLOSSIANS 3:22 - COLOSSIANS 4:1

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

PHILEMON 8 - 10, 15 - 17

COLOSSIANS 4:9

GALATIANS 3:28

1 CORINTHIANS 10:6, 11-12

This Study Guide will help you go deeper throughout the week with daily scripture reading and questions for your own personal reflection and application. It is also designed to be used for discussion with your family, friends and Life Group.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING

Day 1	Colossians 3:17
Day 2	Colossians 3:18-19
Day 3	Colossians 3:20-21
Day 4	Colossians 3:22-4:1
Day 5	Colossians 3:17 & 23-24

DAILY READING JOURNAL

Whether you are reading Colossians for the first time, or have studied it numerous times, we have designed a journal to help you grow in your daily Bible reading. The journal uses the SOAP method, a simple yet powerful tool, to help guide you into deeper understanding and application of the Bible.

OPEN UP

In your childhood, school, first job, etc.; who was a person in authority that most positively shaped you? Who most negatively shaped you?

UNDERSTANDING COLOSSIANS

To understand the teaching in this passage we need to understand cultural and legal norms of first century Roman households. The patriarch was the head of the household whose power and legal rights were all pervasive. A Roman husband had more extensive power over his wife than did a Jewish husband; her life was one of legal incapacity that amounted to enslavement. The Roman father had power over all his children and grandchildren until he specifically freed them to become heads of their own family. Finally, the authority and power exercised by a head of household over his slaves was that of ownership. It is important to emphasize that this passage does not condone any of these cultural or legal norms or practices. Elsewhere Paul speaks out against these non-biblical norms, but in this passage Paul is giving practical teaching to people living in that cultural moment to help them apply biblical principles in everyday life. As we study this passage, those same biblical principles are just as relevant to apply to our everyday lives in the cultural moment we live in today.

How does 3:17 serve as an important introduction to this section?

From this passage is God more interested in changing us or our circumstances? Why?

Describe a way that God has used a difficult situation or relationship to make you more like Jesus?

HUSBANDS AND WIVES VERSES 3:18-19 (ALSO EPHESIANS 5:21)

Regardless of your marital status, what is an example you have seen of a marriage that personifies the selfless service Paul talks about in this passage?

What should a husband do in response to his wife's disrespect or submissiveness? What should a wife do in response to her husband's harshness or lack of love?

CHILDREN AND PARENTS VERSES 3:20-21

What was it like to obey your parents as a kid? What does it look like to honor them today?

What do you think it means to not embitter or provoke your children? What are some ways you can encourage them?

Even if you don't have kids, what are some ways you can model the selfless love of Jesus to those who are younger than you?

SLAVES/EMPLOYEES & MASTERS/EMPLOYERS VERSES 3:22-4:1

What would be most difficult about these instructions for slaves? What about for masters?

How does Paul encourage the slaves to approach their work (3:22-24)? How can you apply this to your work?

APPLICATION

How can you apply 3:23-24 to the most difficult situation or relationship in your life right now?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Pick one person to serve this week and choose intentional actions to lovingly put that person's interest above your own.

Whether you're employed or not, take a moment at the beginning of each day to remind yourself that you're working for God. Come up with a way to creatively remind yourself of that truth throughout the day.

Write a note to thank your parents, or someone who has acted like a parent to you.