

**W**hat's your starting point when it comes to Christ-honoring dynamics in the home and family unit? Do you start with written agreements, rules, or do you just go with the flow? It's likely that our initial instruction in family life started with our families of origin...for better or for worse. How does your relationship with Christ affect your relationships within family? Our previous messages from Colossians 3:1-17 called for Colossians those who have *"taken off our old self with its practices and have taken on the new self, renewed in the knowledge of our Creator...to live in perfect unity"* (vs.9, 10, 14). It really comes down to this:

***Christ-followers find joy and peace in Spirit-filled submission.***

***"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ"***

(Ephesians 5:21)

### ***Wives***

- God will show you his way as you \_\_\_\_\_ and submit to your husband.
- What prompts you to \_\_\_\_\_ that our \_\_\_\_\_ will go before you as you trust Him and submit to your husband?

### ***Husbands***

- God will honor your marriage as you \_\_\_\_\_ and love your wife the way Christ loves the church and sacrificially gave Himself up for her.

***Children – "obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord"*** (Eph. 6:1 *"Honor your father and mother"* (Ex. 20:12))

- As you walk in the Spirit, He will guide you in \_\_\_\_\_ way
- Learn to respect \_\_\_\_\_

***Fathers/parents – "do not embitter your children or they will become discouraged"*** (V.21)

- \_\_\_\_\_ to them – make sure they \_\_\_\_\_ you're listening and that you are seeking to \_\_\_\_\_
- Help them examine their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ( Prov. 20:5)
- Help them learn how to go to God for \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ what He's teaching them

***Slaves – "slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything"*** (vs.22-25)

- \_\_\_\_\_ to be content
- Serve well – since by God's grace you are so *"\_\_\_\_\_"* – work to please your ultimate master – respect this authority in your life – trusting God above all else
- You will receive an \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord
- It is the Lord Christ you are serving – not *"\_\_\_\_\_"*

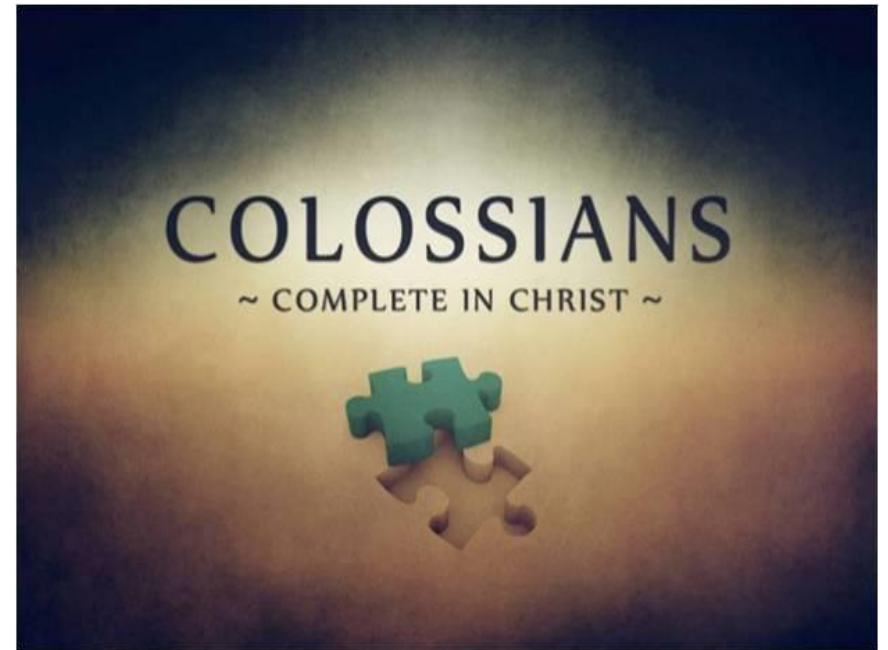
***Masters – "provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a master in heaven"*** (4:1)

- Wages, food, shelter, care, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with them in the Spirit

Principle: you know it's all about God's grace...what you've gotten and what you \_\_\_\_\_ (His \_\_\_\_\_)

## Personal Application and Interaction

1. What's your favorite outfit these days?
2. What are some of the most important family-life courtesies?
3. Why do you think some people challenge basic standards of behavior when it comes to family life?
4. What are the primary resources that have shaped your family-oriented attitudes and actions?
5. What are your thoughts about the advantages afforded to Christian families?
6. Create a 7 day prayer calendar to pray for:
  - Immediate family behaviors and dynamics
  - Friends who are facing threats to their family health
  - Marriage relationships within our church family
  - Our children and young lives whose family values and actions are being shaped by what we teach and what they see and hear all time
  - Relationships with those who work for you or along-side of you



# Our Lives in Christ

## *In Marriage, Home, & Work*

**Colossians 3:18-4:1**

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