



Christ Over Cultural Division

Colossians 3:18-4:1

Study Guide

Introduction

If you summarize Colossians in one sentence it might go something like this: “Jesus Christ is the fullness of God and the all-sufficient Savior offers new life to men and women.” Paul uses provocative language— Jesus is “supreme;” He is the “image of the invisible God;” and my personal favorite “He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” As the letter progresses Paul warns them of the cultural landmines and reminds them that their lives are now hidden in Christ, which changes everything about their identity. With this in mind, Paul revises household codes to create reconciled relationships with a purpose, because Christ is over cultural division.

Read Colossians 3:18-4:1 aloud

1. Highlight which concepts from this passage create tension? Explain why.
2. What are the dangers or pitfalls of reading a 1st century passage with 21st century eyes?
3. How do you see Paul trying to reorient the household through relationships? What is radical about what he is doing?
4. Why does Paul want to see households reformed/transformed by the gospel? What do you think are his expectations?
5. Colossians 3:3 says, “For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.” How does that concept fact impact you? your household?
6. Remember that a household can be a group of people in close, regular proximity with a common purpose. (traditional families, group of roommates, a tightly knit community)

group). Are there any "households" that you're ignoring because of broken relationships? What can you do to improve the household?

7. Do you view ministry as more an individual endeavour or a household endeavour? Explain what you mean. What do you think God intends?
8. What are some ways we can pray for you this week that would encourage you as participants in the mission of God?

Colossians 3:18-4:1

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Summarize Colossians in 1 sentence: "Jesus Christ is the fullness of God and the all-sufficient Savior offering new life to men and women."

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Colossians 3:18-21

Wives, submit yourselves 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 embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

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Colossians 3:22-4:1

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism. Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

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CHRIST OVER CULTURAL DIVISION

#1 The household codes are wonderfully complicated

#2 The household codes are culturally transformative

#3 The household codes are mission driven.

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One of the best ways to “uncomplicate” the codes is to understand the historical context and view them through the lens of other Scriptures.

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What does it mean for church members to live as a citizens of God’s kingdom in an increasingly hostile culture?

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Gospel /`gɑ:spəl/

Good News! King Jesus has brought the reign of God to our world. Through his life, death, and resurrection from the dead, Jesus provided a way for sinners to be pardoned instead of punished. This way is a reconciled relationship with God that transforms our lives forever.

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Galatians 3:26-28

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

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Do you feel like you are actively participating in God's work?

- A household is be a group of people in close proximty with a commom purpose. Huddle up!
- Lone rangers do not make a lasting impact in the kingdom of God.
- Make sure your household is in order.