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# Book of Colossians

— Lesson 9 - In Christ at Home —

Colossians 3:18 - 4:6

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Steve Lewis

[www.SpiritAndTruth.org](http://www.SpiritAndTruth.org)



# Colossians 3:18

## Wives

- Paul typically begins addressing those under authority before addressing those who bear ultimate responsibility.
- God's design for accountability and responsibility:  
**God ← Christ ← the husband ← the wife** (1 Cor 11:3)
- **Be subject** (*hupotassō*) ~ "to arrange under in proper rank."
- **Fitting** ~ a Christian wife properly honors God's design for household accountability.
- All human authority is limited (Acts 5:29) ~ recognize God's ultimate authority whose standards must be obeyed.



# Colossians 3:19

## Husbands

- Husbands must recognize they are also *hupotassō* or “under in rank.”  
*First*, the husband must **love** (*agapaō*) his wife ~ “self-sacrifice.”  
*Second*, he must not be **embittered** (*pikrainō*) against her ~ “exasperated to the point of irritation.”
- A husband’s servant-hearted self-sacrificing love makes it easier for the wife to obey the Lord in *her* role.
- Marriage may be the *first* place that differences & difficulties may appear in our relationships. It is the most important relationship for believers to put Paul’s words into practice.



# Colossians 3:20-21

## Children

- **Obedient** (*hupakouō*) ~ “to listen under.” Paying attention and choosing to respect and submit to the wishes of the parents.
- Twelve-year-old Jesus ~ the perfect example to follow (Luke 2:51).

## Parents

- **Do not exasperate** (*erethizō*) ~ “to stir up, provoke, or irritate.”
- **They will lose heart** (*athymeō*) ~ “without passion (*literally*); discouraged to the point of hopelessness.”
- Christian parents are no longer bound to follow ungodly or worldly patterns of child raising.



# Colossians 3:22-25

## Servants

- **Slaves** (*doulos*) ~ “servant or bondservant.” How those under authority are to relate to those in authority over them.
- **Obedient** (*hupakouō*) ~ “to listen under.”
- **External service** ~ service that is given only while under supervision.
- **Work heartily** (*psuchē*) ~ put their very soul into their work.
- **Will receive the reward** ~ “inheritance of the saints in Light” (Col 1:12)
- **Wrongdoer will be repaid** (*komizō*) ~ “to receive back.”  
**The wrong** (*adikeō*) ~ “to be unrighteous or unjust.”
- **There is no partiality** (*prosōpolēpsia*) ~ “to accept the face,” show favoritism. “There is no partiality with God” (Rom 2:11).



# Colossians 4:1

## Masters

- **Justice** (*dikaios*) ~ positive form of the word *adikeō* (**wrong**, which is the opposite of justice); here **justice** is required.
- **Fairness** (*isotēs*) ~ “equity; having equal proportions.” They are to provide no less than what is due.
- Paul’s command for justice and equity for servants was revolutionary at the time.
- **You too have a Master in heaven** ~ almost identical to the motivation he gave to the servants



# Colossians 4:2-4

## Prayer

- **Devote yourselves** (*proskartereō*) **to prayer** ~ “continually in the habit of persisting in prayer.”
- **Keeping alert in it** (*grēgoreō*) ~ watch for opportunities to pray & for answers to prayer.
- **In thanksgiving** (*eucharistia*) ~ gratitude.
- **Open up a door** ~ to speak the word of the gospel.
- **For which he had been imprisoned** (Acts 21 - 28)
- **Make it clear** (*phaneroō*) ~ “to bring into the light.”
- **The way I ought** (*dei*) **to speak** ~ “a binding obligation” to say exactly what is needed to reach others.



# Colossians 4:5-6

## Outsiders

- **Conduct yourselves** (*peripateō*) ~ live a godly lifestyle before others. When people see a life superior to theirs, they will ask about it.
- **Making the most of every opportunity** ~ “buying up the time.”
- **Gracious speech** (*charis*) ~ making the gospel more attractive.
- **Seasoned with salt** ~ flavoring food makes it more agreeable, so gracious words become more pleasant to hear.
- **How you should** (*dei*) **respond to each person** (*heis hekastos*) ~ each and every single individual may require words tailored to their understanding.





# Application

## For specific groups:

- Wives, are you in proper rank?
- Husbands, are you sacrificially loving?
- Children, are you obeying?
- Parents, are you disheartening your children?
- Servers, are you putting your soul into your work?
- Leaders, are you granting justice and fairness?

How would you rate the consistency and alertness of your prayer life?

How would you grade the graciousness and pleasantness of your manner of speaking?

