

Jesus Changes Everything > Colossians 3:18-4:1

3:18-19 Paul says that we glorify Christ when wives submit to their husbands as is fitting in the Lord and when husbands love their wives and are not harsh with them. Looking at society then and now, to actually put this into practice is more radical than we realize.

3:20-21 The Gospel changes how we relate in our families. Children are to obey their parents – again, because it pleases the Lord. Fathers (generally being those in authority within the family) are to do all they can to encourage their children towards this obedience, rather than provoking them.

3:22-4:1 The Gospel changes how we live and work, the example here involving bondservants and masters, but it would still generally apply to workers and bosses today. Once more, we see that the reason for acting in certain ways is to honor the Lord rather than trying to fit in to the world.

Context: Paul’s summary in **3:17** provides the goal; whatever Christians do, they are to do it in a way that honors Christ and gives thanks to the Father.

Aim: Paul wants the Colossians to see how the Gospel very practically changes everyday life in light of eternity.

Gospel: What Paul calls the Colossians and us to isn’t just to be different for the sake of being different. Instead, it is the power of Christ at work in us that changes our desires to make us want to serve and example Him in these ways.

Applications: Always ask yourself: “how should being a Christian change *this* part of my life also?”

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
