
RELATED SCRIPTURES

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 10.30.22

Philippians 2:5-18 | Ephesians 5:15-33 | Ephesians 6:1-9

SUMMARY

Leading up to verse 15 in Colossians 3, Paul might summarize his teaching as, “Since Christ robes you in his righteousness and the Father fully accepts you as a result of it, then these are the characteristics you should have on display.” The characteristics he then details aren’t a means of earning God’s favor—the believer already has his favor—instead, they are characteristics that proceed forth from the believer in gratitude for the grace Jesus extends to them. Paul tells the church, “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” The peace of which Paul speaks refers to the way believers interact with one another. As we are now “one body,” we should therefore be at peace with one another. Paul then provides several ways in which this can be done, specifically through teaching, admonishing, and singing the teachings of Christ to each other. Paul’s central point (established earlier in chapter 3) emphasizes the reality that the believer now has a new King in Jesus Christ; he is our focus, leaving no room for selfish gain. Therefore, *whatever* we do is done in grateful response to our King. With this understanding, Paul details the specific callings for wives, husbands, children, fathers, bondservants, and masters. As he proceeds with his instruction, each imperative is rooted in humility—behavior reflective of Jesus Christ—not the individual’s societal rights or accepted cultural status. Paul pairs “wives, submit” with “husbands, love.” He groups “children, obey” with “fathers, do not provoke.” He couples “bondservants, obey” with “masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly.” These pairs of instructions were radical departures from what was commonly accepted. This mindset is the radical calling of the Christian—we *all* live in service to the body—to the one King—and *not* to ourselves.

GROUP QUESTIONS

From the sermon or your direct reading of Colossians 3:15-4:1, share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you.

What are some ways you find challenging to live out the instruction to “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts”? How can you overcome those challenges?

Many of the commands Paul issues here (speaking of husbands, wives, masters, and bondservants) feel outdated from a modern-day societal standpoint. How might you explain to a skeptic of Christianity why this is relevant and applicable today?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.