

Bible Study Week 4 – Part 1

Colossians 3: 18 – 4: 1

Christian family and work relationships

Order and Honour in the Home

Revolutionary and counter cultural.

Revelation not revolution

Not undermining but affirming a better way.

Jesus is head of the household/family.

A Christian family is a witness to life in Jesus.

Marriage and family life were God's idea.

Genesis 1: 27 "God created man in his own image male and female he created them."

2: 24 "A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."

Jesus quoted these two passages when answering questions regarding divorce; Matthew 19: 1-6.

"The strength of a nation is derived from the integrity of its homes." Confucius.

Statistics

Some facts. 42% of marriages will end in divorce.

From family breakdown 75% of children fail at school.
70% will have drug abuse addiction
50% will have alcohol addiction
40% end up with debt problems

Cohabitation on average lasts less than two years or they get married.
less than 4% last 10 years or more
the longer cohabitation lasts the more likely to end in divorce.
children are more likely to experience disruptions in family life.

Marriage and family life as the God intended

¹⁸ Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord.

God is a God of order not chaos.

Respect and responsibility.

¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.

Not dominance or authoritarian.

²⁰ Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord.

“Honor your father and mother, as the Lord your God commanded you. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.” Exodus 20: 12, and Deuteronomy 5:16

²¹ Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged.

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.
Ephesians 6: 4

Be good examples of loving and following the Lord.

Order and Honour at Work

22-25 Slaves (Employees) obey and respect those over you.

Work with integrity as if you are working for the Lord.

4: 1 Masters (Bosses) be fair and do what is right.

You also answer to your Master in heaven.

²⁶ For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3: 26-28

Colossians 4: 2 – 6

Prayer and Focus

² Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.

Devotion suggests commitment and passion

Steadfast or persistent in prayer even in the midst of difficulty.

Have a lifestyle of prayer.

Being watchful (NIV). Having an alert mind (NLT)

Be aware of what is happening around you.

Keep focussed on God, see what he is doing.

Jesus, in the garden of Gethsemane, told his disciples to “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” Mark 14: 38.

Paul here is urging the church to keep alert, make prayer a priority, keep focussed, pray with purpose.

Being thankful in prayer encourages an outward mind-set for prayer.

Being thankful in prayer turns it from being merely selfish pleading to have our own desires met.

Being thankful in prayer keeps us looking for God’s answers and acknowledges his faithfulness towards us.

³ Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. ⁴ Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.

If I were Paul, I would have asked to be set free from prison, to have that door opened. What a challenge Paul bring to us, pray for an open door to peoples lives so that he can speak about Jesus.

³ Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. ⁴ Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.

If I were Paul, I would have asked to be set free from prison, to have that door opened. What a challenge Paul bring to us, pray for an open door to peoples lives so that he can speak about Jesus.

Even after all the years of speaking about Jesus, he asks for prayer to keep the message clear and to the point. He does not want this message to be confused or compromised in any way.

⁵ Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

“Seasoned with salt”(NIV). Salt was used to clean and to preserve as well as to bring flavour to food.

The challenge from Jesus is for us to “be the salt of the earth, If we lose our saltiness we are no good for anything, except to be thrown out and walked on.” Matthew 5: 13.

We keep our saltiness by staying close to Jesus, by the Holy Spirit directing our lives, by praying for each other that we may be able to have a right response to everyone.

