

Text: Colossians 3:18-4:1

Meaning: Paul talked about God's will for the dynamics of life

Big Idea: Our love for Christ is seen in how we live our lives

Objective: I want the hearers to honor Christ in their family and work

Theme: Instructions

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIFE

Manufacturers Manual

Every vehicle comes with a manufacturers manual. In this manual you have instructions on everything from changing the oil, to what size tires should be on the vehicle, to how to set the cruise, to how to use the heating and air conditioning, to how to turn the lights on, to where the spare tire is and where the jack to lift the vehicle to change a tire is and so on and so forth. If I want to know how to properly use and maintain my vehicle I must go to the manual to read what it says. It stands to reason that the manufacturer, the one who made the vehicle, knows best how the vehicle is to be used.

Beloved, this Bible is our manufacturers manual. In it we have all the answers to the biggest questions of life and we see what our Creator's original design is for relationships, finances, family, work, and the church. Sadly, in this culture many just toss the Bible to the side as some archaic book that is no longer relevant for us.

READ COLOSSIANS 3:18-4:1

Some read a passage like this and say, "well our culture is different today!" Exactly! And that's why we need God's commands concerning marriage more than ever before, because our culture continues to go further and further away from God's original design.

This passage is not a matter of CULTURE it is a matter of COMMAND. God has never allowed culture to dictate a COMMAND He always uses His COMMANDS to correct CULTURE. Keep in mind the context

of this chapter. We have been raised up with Christ so SEEK THE THINGS ABOVE! This is not our home! It doesn't matter what CULTURE DOES OR SAYS, IT ONLY MATTERS WHAT GOD SAYS!

The Bible never says, "Let the order of society guide the christian." No it teaches us to let the counsel of our timeless God guide the christian! Big difference!

If you don't like what the Bible says, friend just know that it's not the Bible that has the problem.

In this passage we see the manufacturers instructions for LIFE. What we see here are the basic building blocks of a society, and if these blocks are out of place or non-existent then society will be very shaky and civilization will fail.

God gives us here the PYRAMID for a STRONG SOCIETY:

Workers Work
CHILDREN OBEY
WIVES SUBMIT
HUSBANDS LOVE

Keep in mind that CHRIST IS THE CORNERSTONE! None of this makes any eternal difference if CHRIST IS NOT THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR IT ALL!

HUSBANDS LOVE

Paul gives instructions first to the wives here, but based on the nature of the instruction to wives this tells me it all begins with the husband. If wives are commanded to submit, that begs the question, "Am I a husband worth respecting? Or am I a teenage boy in a grown man's body?"

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

WIVES SUBMIT

Submission does not mean subservience. The word in the original language carries the idea of placing yourself under someone higher ranking than you, in a military sense. Submission ultimately is trusting your husband, and more importantly trusting God to work through your husband to lead your family. One of the strongest examples of Jesus in a marriage is a godly wife who submits to her husband out of respect for God and a desire to build the confidence of her spouse. Jesus Himself said, "My food is to do the will of the Father."

1 Peter 3:1

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives

LADIES – BE A THERMOSTAT NOT A THERMOMETER

A thermometer simply reacts to the temperature around it. A thermostat CONTROLS THE TEMPERATURE. Ladies, YOU CONTROL THE TEMPERATURE OF YOUR HOME. Cool things down when it's too heated. Bring peace and grace to the home. Warm things up with love when it's cold and distant.

Husbands, love is also submission. Love is submission to Christ and service to those for whom I am responsible. A good husband listens to his wife, values her opinions, and trusts in her intuition and Spirit-led heart. But, a godly husband also is tasked with leading his family when a decision needs to be made or a direction needs to be taken for which there is not clear consensus.

CHILDREN OBEY

Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

WORKERS WORK

Work heartily – the word in the Greek is the word psyche, which speaks of your soul. It's the inner part of you. So, work from the inside not simply perform on the outside is the idea here. In other words we should be intrinsically motivated to do our work well, and not for promotion or profit sake, but for my testimony's sake.