

Jesus our Centre (Colossians & Philemon)

Week 6: Jesus our Master

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing and sharing together.

What behaviour have you witnessed in families or between friends that make those relationships distinctively Christian?

WORSHIP

Read Psalm 107:1-9. Give thanks for the good things that God has done in your life. Say sorry for when you have strayed off his path. Give thanks that he loves us and wants the very best for each of our lives.

WORD

Read Colossians 3:18-21 (we will look at 3:22-25 on week 8)

1. What is your initial reaction to the passage?

2. What are the underlying attitudes in how family members are to treat one another?

Growth Group Notes

Spring 2022



Wives and husbands (vv18-19).

First, we should acknowledge that “Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands” is a verse that has been misused down the ages. Some men have used it as permission to abuse their wives. Some women have understood it to mean that they should suffer in silence at the hands of an abusive husband. This is absolutely not what Paul meant and these verses should never be used to justify abuse.

We should also note that these instructions are set within the context of Christian marriage and therefore the assumption is that both husband and wife have submitted themselves to the Lord. Also note that this isn't the only thing that Paul said to Christian wives and husbands because everything that Paul said has been aimed at the believers in Colossae which clearly includes wives and husbands. For example, Col 3:12-13.

3. What insight does Col 3:12-13 bring to the nature of the relationship between husbands and wives?

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians he provides the same instructions but in more detail. Read Ephesians 5:21-33

4. What difference does Eph 5:21 make in the relationship?

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5. What are the responsibilities that a wife has to her husband and vice versa?

6. Read John 5:17-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:27-28. What do these verses tell us about the relationship between the Father and the Son?

7. Paul says the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. What does that mean? Look at Ephesians 1:22, 2:20 and 4:14-16

Children and Fathers (parents) (vv20-21).

In a culture where children had no rights, Paul speaks to them as full members of the church. This suggests that the children were old enough to be responsible and understand what Paul was saying but young enough that they were still dependant on their parents. So, Paul isn't talking to thirty year olds and isn't saying that whatever our age we should obey our parents in everything. My sons are 22 and nearly 25 – they still come to me and Aly for advice – but I don't expect them obey us in everything.

The relationship between children and parents is intended to be an image of the relationship between us and our heavenly father.

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8. Why should children obey their parents?

9. Why shouldn't parents not exasperate their children?

WHAT NEXT?

If we all followed the instruction to, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Eph 3.21), in all our relationships, what impact might that have on our lives, our community and society in general?

Depending on the makeup of the group discuss what the application might be in the different relationships including as appropriate: marriage relationships, parent-child relationships, and relations between friends, etc.

Lenten reflection

Think of one of your relationships that would particularly benefit from an injection of agapē love using the self-sacrificial model which Jesus has provided. What would that look like? Husbands and wives, when was the last time you had a date night? When was the last time you encouraged a friend with a treat that you know they would like?