

## Colossians 3:18-4:18 - Fully Assured In All The Will Of God

### vs. 3:18-21 - Wives... Husbands... Children... Fathers...

- All this must be put in the context of verses 12-17.
  - Wives - subject to your husbands (under)
    - motive - as is fitting in the Lord (proper).
    - see Ephesians 5:22-24.
    - 1Peter 3:1 - to win the unbelieving husband.
  - Wives should all memorize this verse!
  - Husbands - love your wives and do not be embittered.
    - love is... (1Corinthians 13:4-8).
    - Ephesians 5:25-33.
  - Husbands should all memorize this verse!
- see also 1Corinthians 7:3-5.
- FREE - marital counseling stick figure example.
  - Children - be obedient to your parents in all things
    - motive - for this is well pleasing to the Lord.
    - Ephesians 6:1-3.
  - Children should all memorize this verse!
  - Fathers - do not exasperate your children (irritate or provoke to anger).
    - motive - so that they will not lose heart (disheartened - to cause someone to lose determination or confidence.
    - Ephesians 6:4.
  - Fathers should all memorize this verse!
- Understand that our family relationships are to be a picture of God's relationship with the church, when we fail in these relationships, we become a poor witness to unbelievers.

### vs. 3:22-4:1 - Work heartily as for the Lord.

- still in the context of verses 12-17, esp. vs 17.
  - slaves - obey those who are your masters (see Colossians 3:11).
    - do your work heartily as for the Lord rather than for men.
    - from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance.
    - Ephesians 6:5-8.
    - 1Corinthians 7:21-24.
  - masters - grant your slaves justice and fairness.
    - you too have a Master in heaven.
    - Ephesians 6:9.
- as with the family, these relationships can be a picture of our

relationship with Christ.

### vs. 2-4 - Devote yourselves to prayer.

- this is a key devotion for the successful church - Acts 2:42.
- keeping alert literally means keeping awake.
  - when you start to get drowsy during prayer try thanking God for all the good stuff you have.
- Paul wanted the Colossians to pray for his missionary team, so that they would preach the gospel clearly.
  - the mystery - this is Christ living in you (Colossians 1:27).

### vs. 5-6 - Let your speech always be with grace.

- Proverbs 16:21, 22:11.
- grace (gk.- charis) charity.

### vs. 7-11 - They have proved to be an encouragement to me.

- Tychicus - He also will carry letters to the Ephesian church and its leader Timothy. He was sent to tell them about Paul's circumstances and to encourage them.
- Onesimus - a new convert (Philemon 1:10) traveled with Tychicus, and was carrying a special letter for Philemon (his master whom he had escaped from).
- Mark - cool to see these two together again.
- These folks have been an encouragement to Paul - what a marvelous ministry, one several in this church are involved in.

### vs. 12-17 - Greetings.

- Epaphras - brought the gospel to Colossae.
  - prayer for the Colossians is a good pattern for us to pray for our church.
- Luke - Author of Luke and Acts, and traveling companion of Paul.
- Demas - eventually will leave Paul because he "loved this present world" (2Timothy 4:10).
- Nympha - hosts a house church.
- Make sure you read the Laodiceans mail!
- Archipuss - do your job. He possibly housed the church in Colossae (Philemon 1:2).

### vs. 18 - Grace be with you.

- Remember my imprisonment - great bumper sticker.
- Grace be with you - great way to end a letter.