

In the first half of chapter 3, Paul reminded the Colossians of their new life in Christ, that general characteristics of living have shifted as we “put off” the old life and “put on” the new. As the chapter continues, Paul drills down to specific roles that are different in a Christian household, specifically, calling on all members to live a life of love and service to one another.

Colossians 3:18-4:1

Rules for Christian Households

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

The concept of family can take on many different connotations. Depending on a person's upbringing, culture, or significant events that may have occurred, the idea of “family” or “home” has the ability to conjure up wonderful memories, and sometimes a painful past.

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

IF you had to describe your family (growing up) in three words, what would they be? **WHAT** three words would you use to describe your family now?

WHEN you think of the idea of “order” in the context of a family, what things come to mind?

EXPLAIN the relationship love, submission, and obedience share in a Christian household.

CAN you share of an experience where love, submission, and/or obedience in a household context was not demonstrated in a Godly manner, resulting in a hurtful outcome?

Colossians 3:18-4:1

Read Colossians 3:18-4:1

Rules for Christian Households

OBSERVATION

In vs. 18, what does Paul call upon wives to do, and what reason does he give them to fulfill this role?

In vs. 19, what does Paul call husbands to do (and not to do) with their wives?

In vs. 20-21, what are the commands given to children and fathers?

What two people does Paul address in vs. 22-4:1? Describe the specific commands he gives to each of them.

What is the warning given in vs. 25?

INTERPRETATION

Take a moment to read the “sister” passage to this section in Ephesians 5:22-6:4

What does it mean to submit? Who else is called to submit in scripture? See James 4:7; Ephesians 5:21, 24; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13; Luke 22:42)

Considering the verses above, why do you think submission in a Christian household is fitting to the Lord?

Love can mean many things in our language, what exactly is Paul calling upon husbands to do according to *this* kind of love? (see 1 John 3:16, 4:7-12)

Explain how obedience is pleasing to the Lord and why it ought to be a good motivation for children. Consider 2 John 4 and 3 John 4.

What is a bondservant and master? What do these roles look like today?

What might it look like to work “heartily” for the Lord in what you do?

How does the knowledge that we have a Master in heaven motivate us to treat those we lead justly and fairly? Consider Galatians 6:7.

APPLICATION

Which one of these roles is God prodding you toward today? How are you enabled to fulfill this role (3:1-3), and what steps do you need to take this week in order to do so?