

For Christ: Our Lover

18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. **19** Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. **20** Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. **21** Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. **22** Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. **23** Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, **24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. **25** For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. **4:1** Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

I. ReJesus-ing Recap

- A. On Christ: our foundation: there is no other solid foundation on which we build our beliefs
- B. Through Christ, our mediator: through Jesus we enter into God's new kingdom
- C. In Christ, our life: and in Jesus are all treasures of wisdom and knowledge
- D. Under Christ, our secret: radical changes to our beliefs/conduct may not make worldly sense
- E. Like Christ, our model: like Jesus, we live in humility and love

II. Off with the Old and On with the New

A. Put off... (Col 3: 1-11)

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| 1. Sexual immorality | 7. Wrath |
| 2. Impurity | 8. Malice |
| 3. Passion | 9. Slander |
| 4. Evil desire | 10. Obscene talk |
| 5. Covetousness | 11. Lying |
| 6. Anger | |

B. Put on... (Col 3:12-17)

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| 1. Compassionate Hearts | 6. Forgiveness |
| 2. Kindness | 7. Love |
| 3. Humility | 8. Peace |
| 4. Meekness | 9. Thanksgiving |
| 5. Patience | |

"God's **chosen** ones, **holy** and **beloved**" (Colossians 3:12)

OUR IDENTITY IS IN CHRIST, AS SONS AND DAUGHTERS, LOVED BY GOD

III. ReJesus-ing Relationships

A. Unity in Marriage

"18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them."

1. Christ motivates and equips us to move from **HARSHNESS** to **LOVE**

ideas for loving in real life marriage:

- practice grace in communication and be present when you're together
- express gratitude rather than take for granted
- learn her love language and then be intentional
 - plan a date
 - do the dishes
 - be home when you say you will

2. Christ motivates and equips us to move from **CONTROLLING** to **SUBMITTING**

ideas for submitting in a real life marriage:

- speak kindly rather than husband bashing
- express expectations rather than internally keeping score
- offer forgiveness and give the freedom to fail

the end effect is a marriage motivated by Christ, unified under Christ, in partnership with one another

B. Wholeness as Families

"20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."

1. Christ motivates and equips us to move from **PROVOKING** to **ENCOURAGEMENT**

ideas for parenting in real life families:

- speak encouragement rather than curses
- remember the goal is their eventual maturity...
 - rather than your fulfilled identity
- learn something from your child
- ask your child for forgiveness

2. Christ motivates and equips us to move from **REBELLION** to **OBEDIENCE**

ideas for growing up in real life families:

- be proactive before being asked to do it
- remember parents aren't perfect and offer forgiveness
- practice letting parents lead and learn wisdom beyond your years

C. Harmony at Work

22 *Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.*

4:1 *Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.*

1. Christ motivates and equips us to move from **DECEIT** to **SINCERITY**

examples of working in real life:

- work while your at work
- learn to receive feedback rather than be defensive
- speak blessings over your boss to others

2. Christ motivates and equips us to move from **CORRUPTION** to **INTEGRITY**

examples of leading in real life:

- clarify realistic expectations and move people where they need moved
- offer grace, keep short accounts, and address unresolved conflict
- invest in the person more than the product

LIVING IN CHRIST AS CHOSEN, HOLY, AND BELOVED

EQUIPS US TO LIVE FOR CHRIST IN UNITY, WHOLENESS, AND HARMONY

IV. What Compels and Controls: THE LOVE OF CHRIST (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

4 *For the love of Christ controls (compels) us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;* **15** *and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.*

1. What is the greatest threat to the unity in your marriage right now? How is Christ compelling you to recenter your marriage in him?

2. What most preoccupies you from connecting in healthy ways as a family? How is Christ compelling you to live in your relationships as a family?

3. What is your biggest distraction at work? How is Christ compelling you to work differently in response to him as your identity and motivation in the workplace this week?