

A Relationships between spouses (Colossians 3:18-19)

- ❖ Written at the same time, the epistles of Colossians and Ephesians contain similar (and complementary) advice regarding spouses (Col. 3:18-19; Eph. 5:21-33).
 - Wives are subject to their husbands (Col. 3:18; Eph. 5:22-24)
 - (1) This submission is within a mutual submission (Eph. 5:21), and must be “as is fitting in the Lord.”
 - Husbands should love their wives (Col. 3:19; Eph. 5:28)
 - (1) Love them with the same love that Christ loved us (Eph. 5:25)
 - (2) They are responsible for their own well-being (Eph. 5:29)
 - (3) Do not be “harsh” (do not embitter them, do not behave harshly or violently, do not be tyrannical)
- ❖ Both spouses should work as a team, consult with each other, and make decisions unanimously, with the husband being the ideal leader of the family. Each should always seek the well-being of the other.

B Relationships between parents and children (Colossians 3:20-21)

- ❖ In today's society, the word "parents" should be applied to both established marriages and single-parent families. According to Paul, a healthy relationship is not solely the responsibility of the parents, but also of the children themselves.
 - Responsibilities of sons and daughters (Col. 3:20; Eph. 6:1-3)
 - (1) Children's obedience is not optional
 - (2) This obedience is based on the fifth commandment
 - (3) Furthermore, obedience comes with its own reward
 - Parental Responsibilities (Col. 3:21; Eph. 6:4)
 - (1) Educate them without exasperating or irritating them, so as not to discourage them
 - (2) Do not anger them by acting impatiently or capriciously
 - (3) Educate them in the ways of God (Deut. 6:6-7; Prov. 22:6)
- ❖ Morning and/or evening family worship is important for our children to learn about God and make decisions for eternal life. And let's not forget that our example is the greatest educator of our children.

C Relationships between bosses and workers (Colossians 3:22-25; 4:1)

- ❖ The relationship of servitude that existed in Paul's time has little to do with the types of slavery that, unfortunately, still exist today. Therefore, we must understand this advice within the context of a boss/subordinate relationship.
 - Behavior of subordinates (Col. 3:22-25; Eph. 6:5-8)
 - (1) Always do your best, even if no one is watching
 - (2) Strive for excellence in your work, as if you were doing it for God
 - (3) Accept reprimand when it is justified
 - (4) Good work pays off
 - (5) A bad boss does not exempt us from subordination (1P 2:18)
 - Behavior of bosses (Col. 4:1; Eph. 6:9)
 - (1) To lead with justice and righteousness
 - (2) Do not use threats or capricious demands
 - (3) Every boss has a Boss over him, to whom he will be accountable
- ❖ All of us, bosses or subordinates, are servants (slaves) of Christ, since we serve Him.

D Relationships in the Church (Colossians 4:2-4)

- ❖ We are urged to “pray for one another” because “the effective prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” (James 5:16 NIV).
- ❖ Beyond morning and evening prayers, Paul proposes that we pray at any time (Col. 4:2; Eph. 6:18; 1 Thess. 5:17). Just as Nehemiah prayed silently before the king (Neh. 2:4), we have the privilege of praying in any place or situation.
- ❖ Furthermore, we have the assurance that the Holy Spirit will transform our prayer to make it effective (Rom. 8:26).
- ❖ Paul makes a special request to pray for those who proclaim the gospel (Col. 4:3-4; Eph. 6:19). It doesn't matter if the preacher has little or much experience in evangelism; no one is sufficient for this work. Paul himself not only prayed, but also asked the brothers to pray for him so that his words would be the right ones.

E Relationships with unbelievers (Colossians 4:5-6)

- ❖ We have great benefits: we have learned what Jesus did for us; we have accepted it; and we have the assurance of salvation.
- ❖ We know this because someone told us. Likewise, we must share it with others. How does Paul say we should relate to “outsiders,” those who do not yet know Jesus (Col. 4:5-6)?
 - *With wisdom*. We need “the wisdom that comes from heaven” (James 3:17) in our relationship with those who do not yet know Jesus.
 - *With kind words*. Our words should always be courteous so that they listen to us with pleasure.
 - *With words “seasoned with salt”*. The conversation should be appropriate and adapted to the person and the environment around them.
 - *Responding to each person as is fitting*. Since each person is different, the Holy Spirit will guide us on how to respond in each situation.