

THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST

The Fullness of Deity Dwelling in Christ

Spirit Controlled Relationships

Colossians 3: 4-11

Introduction: As Paul moves toward the conclusion of his letter he makes brief mention of some of the predominate behaviors observable in various personal relationships. These are not necessarily normal behaviors in most situations apart from Christ, but they are evident in those whose lives are under the control of the Holy Spirit.

I. Family Relationships

- A. In Marriage: loving submission and loving devotion
 - 1. Wives be subject
 - 2. Husbands love and avoid bitterness
- B. In Family: children in obedience and fathers sensitive and caring
 - 1. Children obey in all things, this pleases God
 - 2. Fathers, do not exasperate your children so they will not loose heart

II. Work and Business Relationships

- A. Spiritual attitudes of employees
 - 1. obedience to those in authority
 - 2. sincere devotion to the owner/manager
 - 3. a work ethic of a missionary
 - 4. we work and expect our reward as from the Lord
- B. Spiritual attitudes of owners/managers
 - 1. treat workers justly and fairly
 - 2. with the understanding that you are also under authority

III. Relationships Among Unbelievers

- A. Be devoted to prayer
- B. Pray for open doors of opportunity to share Christ
- C. Conduct yourself with wisdom making the most of those opportunities
- D. Spirit controlled and guided speech

Conclusion: In all areas of our life we are expected to be under and to manifest the control of the Holy Spirit. It is the very life of Christ in us that causes others to see God. The Bible does not teach that we are to come out of the world in order to be holy in life and character, but rather that we are to manifest godliness in the world and in every relationship. We may be the only Bible other people ever read; we may be the only reflection of God other people ever see.

Colossians 3:18 - 4:6

Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart. Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality. Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven. Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; hat I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

