

“Living For Jesus”  
Colossians 3:18-4:1  
12/17/23  
Message 9

## **Introduction**

- Title Of The Message: “Living For Jesus”
- **Illustration – What Marks our LIVES**
  - **What is the Identifying mark of a Hindu?**
    - A Tilak on the forehead
  - **What is the Identifying mark of a Sikh Religion**
    - Turban worn on the head
  - **What is the Identifying mark of a pious Jew?**
    - Phylactery on forehead
  - **What is the Identifying mark of a Mormon?**
    - Bike, White Shirt, Tie, Name badge “elder”
  - **What is the Identifying mark of a JW?**
    - Watch Tower magazine
  - **What is the Identifying mark of a follower of antichrist in tribulation**
    - Mark on forehead
  - **What is the Identifying mark of the 144,000?**
    - A Seal on forehead (Rev.7:3)
  - **What SHOULD BE the Identifying mark of a Christian?**

- Wears a Cross?
- Wears a T-Shirt?
- Bumper Sticker?
- NO
- The Identifying mark of a Genuine Believer?
  - LOVE
  - Not Some Worldly Type LOVE
  - BUT an out of this World type LOVE – AGAPE

• **Remember Paul had Concerns About the Colossians**

○ **1<sup>st</sup> False Teaching – Bad Ideas**

- **KNOWN as - The Colossian Heresy**
  - It was the combination of several religious systems.
    - Jewish Legalism (Col. 2:16-17)
    - Oriental Mysticism (Col. 2:18-19)
    - Greek Asceticism (Col. 2:20-23)
    - Gnosticism (Col. 2:1-23)
- **The Answers to these False Teachers – Bad Ideas**
  - POINTING To Jesus
    - The Supremacy & Sufficiency of Christ
    - The Preeminence of Christ
- **Paul Also Instructed them On their Position IN CHRIST**
  - COMPLETE IN CHRIST

- RAISED WITH CHRIST

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Dead Religion**

- **Another one of Paul's Concern - DEAD Religion**

- This Wonderful Doctrine That Paul has just shared with them

- The

- Supremacy, Sufficiency & Preeminence of Christ!

- That they are

- COMPLETE In CHRIST
    - RAISED WITH CHRIST

- This Must produce Something

- **Doctrine Demands DUTY!**

- **Creed Determines Conduct!**

- **Facts Demand Acts!**

- **Review: Last week we saw how this must Impact the Believers Character**

- **Our Position v. 12a-13**

- Elect
  - Holy
  - Beloved
  - Forgiven

- **Our Principles vs. 12b-14**

- Put On
  - A Command
- Tender Mercies
- Kindness
- Humility
- Meekness
- Longsuffering
- Bearing with one another
- Forgiving one another - as Christ forgave you
- Above ALL Put On LOVE

- **Our Process vs. 15-17**

- Peace Of God Rule – Umpire
  - In Our Hearts
  - Also in the Church
- Let the Word Dwell Richly
- Everything we do is in His Name –
  - Do it great

• **Now This Morning 3 Wonderful TRUTHS in LIVING FOR JESUS**

- **Context**

- PLEASE UNDERSTAND
  - Everything we Talked about last week is CONNECTED to REAL life
  - IT MUST AFFECT...
- Also – All these are ABOUT Authority
  - There is SUCH a lack of respect for authority in our culture
  - God takes AUTHORITY very seriously
- Affects Our Marriage vs. 18-19
- Affects Our Families vs. 20-21
- Affects Our Workplace vs. 22-4:1

### **Affects Our Marriage vs. 18-19**

#### **• First: The Christian Home**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Importance of the FAMILY**
  - Created BY GOD (Genesis 2-3)
  - Marriage First Institution He made
  - One MAN One Women
  - Satan has attacked from the beginning
- **2<sup>nd</sup> So it is critical we take our instruction from GOD**
  - We MUST leave ALL Worldly philosophies behind
  - Focus on What God says!!!
- **3<sup>rd</sup> God has given us in His Word the Fundamental Principles to guide in the Building the Christian home**

- **1<sup>st</sup> The father must LEAD**

- With wisdom and the Love of God

- **Show Pic**

- Adam was blamed for Eve sin (Romans)
- God has called the man to lead

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Lead Spiritually**

- There must be a family altar—
- A time each day when the family gathers for the reading of the God's Word and for prayer

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Keep the Family Priorities**

- God First
- Family Second
- Ministry (God)
- Work

- **4<sup>th</sup> Parents Lead BY EXAMPLE of God's Love, Holiness, Humility & Grace**

- Never be afraid to confess your wrong
- That you are doing your best to follow Jesus

- **5<sup>th</sup> Husband / Wife Be on the SAME page**

- All Matters
- Disciplining of the children
- Inconsistencies – make life harder & Confuse Kids

- **6<sup>th</sup> With regard to the disciplining of children**

- Never punish in anger
- Never punish unjustly
- Never punish without explaining the reason
- **7<sup>th</sup> Teach your Children to FOLLOW God**
  - Not the carnal things of this world
  - It far more important for your kids to learn to love, follow and serve God
    - Then WHAT they will do for a living one day

• **Second: How Living for Jesus Affects the Role of a Wife v. 18**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Wives, Submit v. 18**

***Colossians 3:18 (NKJV)***

**18 Wives, submit** *to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

▪ **1<sup>st</sup> Submission is NOT a Popular Subject**

- First let me say - I know that these instructions don't FLY with the world
  - They see them as...
    - Outdated
    - Barbaric
    - Even offensive!
- Part of me can understand why...
  - With all the abuses that have taken place over the years!

- 50's women little more than a servant, doormats, etc... Very SAD
- 60's they rightful fought for rights...
- But now today things have become very confused!!!
  - Roles have been messed up
    - Men don't lead Women don't follow
    - So –
      - WE MUST SEEK to understand them as God has intended!!!
  - God has Created "Roles"
    - A Role for the Man
    - A Role for the Woman
  - Why?
    - So - the marriage can be all that God created it to be!

## ■ 2<sup>nd</sup> WHAT - Does the Word Submission Mean?

- The Word "Submit"
  - Submit: Greek: Hupotássō
  - Means: To place in order. To place under in an orderly fashion
  - NOTE:
    - Submission does not mean Inferiority

- Submission does not mean Silence
- IT MEAN'S:
  - Means to place yourself under someone else!
    - Submission mean's "Sub-Mission."
  - Think of it like this:
    - There is a Mission for your marriage
    - This mission is
    - Obeying and glorifying God.
    - More important than my individual desires.

▪ **3<sup>rd</sup> WHY - Does the Lord Call a Wife to submit?**

- **1<sup>st</sup> A Picture of Christ and the church!**

***Ephesians 5:32 (NKJV)***

**32** *This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

- When a person becomes SAVED
  - They become part of His church.
- The Bible calls His church "The Bride of Christ"
  - Marriage was designed to beautifully symbolize the relationship that the Lord would have with His people!
  - It shows us that Jesus wants us to be ONE with Him.

- God wants the marriage relationship to be a picture of Christ and His relationship to the Church
- When a wife submits
  - She is really submitting to the Original Role given to her by God
- **2<sup>nd</sup> God's Order – CREATION Order**
  - When God made Adam and Eve
    - He made them in complete unity.
    - Saw them as one!
    - There was an EQUALITY between the man & the woman
  - But listen it was an was Ordered Equality
    - WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
    - In the very beginning Man was given headship over his Wife
    - Not because he was
      - Smarter
      - More spiritual
      - Better made
    - But simply because that was God's design

○ **PLEASE NOTE**

- **Submission ONLY APPLIES TO MARRIAGE**

#### ▪ 4<sup>th</sup> Recognize the Problem - SIN

- Part of the curse:

##### **Genesis 3:16 (NKJV)**

**16** *To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."*

- God said of Eve in her flesh her desire would be to rule over her Husband
- Not submit to him but run his life
- WARNING
  - Women - most husbands don't want to fight to lead
  - They don't want to fight at all
  - By consistent rebellion to God ordained leadership
  - A Husband may just give up...
  - Now you may have successes at neutering him
  - But what you have done is destroy the family structure that God designed

#### ▪ 5<sup>th</sup> Understand the Limits to Submission

- As is Fitting in the Lord –
  - In "AGREEMENT with the LORD!!!"
  - You are a Child of GOD first
  - Obey Him first your husband second

#### ▪ 6<sup>th</sup> What SUBMISSION should look like

- Husband and wife talk through every decision
- Wives have opinions
- If you can't come to agreement then the husband is the one who takes the lead!!!

#### ▪ **7<sup>th</sup> Final Thoughts on Submission**

- 1<sup>st</sup> As with ALL of God's commandments GOOD
  - These commands are for our good
  - Following all of God's commands will lead to a fulfilled life!!! SAFE
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The church is in no way Degraded by Submitting to Jesus Christ.
  - Same with a wife
- 3<sup>rd</sup> There is JOY in Obedience to God
  - Being FILLED with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18-20)
  - Walk Worthy (Eph. 4:1)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Remember man is also under authority as well, Jesus' (Eph. 5:21 & 25)
  - He will be the one giving an account for what he did in the leading of the family
- 5<sup>th</sup> Example of Submission in Scripture
  - To the Government
    - In Titus 1 / Rom. 13 it is used of being submitted to Governing authorities

- To Employers:
  - In Eph. 6:5-9 / 1 Pet. 2 it is used of employees being submitted to their employers
- To Parents:
  - Children obey Eph. 6:1-3
- Jesus Submitted!
  - Subject to Mary and Joseph as a Kid (Luke 2:51)
  - Submitted to God!!! (Phil 2:5-11)
- 6<sup>th</sup> REMEMBER A Christian marriage is to be a powerful witness to a selfish world!
  - The world should look at Christian marriages and instantly see the difference.
  - They should see a Christian husband
  - Tenderly and selflessly loving his wife as Christ loved the church.
  - The world should see a Christian wife
  - Joyfully submitting to and respecting her husband, always seeking his good.
  - THEY SHOULD see A picture of Christ and the Church
  - The difference between this picture and the garbage on TV should cause the world to marvel.

● **Second: How Living For Jesus Affects the Role of a Husband v. 19**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Husbands, love your wives v. 19a**

***Colossians 3:19 (NKJV)***

**19** *Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.*

- **1<sup>st</sup> Love Your Wife By Being The Leader God Has Called You To Be**

- The Lord Jesus is our Example

- **1<sup>st</sup> Be HOLY**

***1 Peter 1:16 (NKJV)***

**16** *because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."*

- Are you GROWING in Jesus

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Lead Spiritually –**

- In the WORD
- In PRAYER
- In going to CHURCH
- Men it's your responsibility to lead your family in attending Church

- **3<sup>rd</sup> LOVE HER**

- This is HUGE
- JUST AS Christ Loves the Church
  - Think about all the ways Jesus loves you
  - Now do the same for your wife

- **4<sup>th</sup> In Humility**

- A Humble / Servant Leader Seek to lead like Jesus

- BE the Servant Leader
- Shows his LOVE by SUBMITTING to Jesus

- **5<sup>th</sup> By Providing – Physically**

- Take care of PHYSICAL and EMOTIONAL needs

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Love Your Wife Just As Christ Loves The Church**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Love Unconditionally (Ephesians 5:25a)**

***Ephesians 5:25 (NKJV)***

***25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,***

- Agape

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Love Willingly (Ephesians 5:25b)**

***Ephesians 5:25 (NKJV)***

***25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,***

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Love Sacrificially (Ephesians 5:25c)**

***Ephesians 5:25 (NKJV)***

***25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,***

- **4<sup>th</sup> Love Spiritually (Ephesians 5:26-27)**

***Ephesians 5:26–27 (NKJV)***

***26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,***

***27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.***

- **5<sup>th</sup> Love Practically (Ephesians 5:28-29)**

***Ephesians 5:28–29 (NKJV)***

**28** *So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.*

**29** *For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.*

○ Affections Due Her

***1 Corinthians 7:3 (NKJV)***

**3** *Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.*

• **6<sup>th</sup> Love Positionally (Ephesians 5:30-32)**

***Ephesians 5:30–32 (NKJV)***

**30** *For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.*

**31** *“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*

**32** *This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

○ **2<sup>nd</sup> And DO NOT BE BITTER them v. 19b**

***Colossians 3:19 (NKJV)***

**19** *Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.*

- Be Bitter –
  - Greek: Pikraino –
  - Means: To embitter; render angry, indignant; irritated
  - Present tense - “Stop being bitter” or “do not have the habit of being bitter.”
- Where does bitterness come from - Unforgiveness.
  - The cure for bitterness is to love with a love that forgives!
  - Be the first to forgive
  - Be THE MAN – LEAD in LOVE

## **Affects Our Families vs. 20-21**

### **• First: How Living For Jesus Affect the Children v. 20**

#### **○ 1<sup>st</sup> Children, obey your parents in all things v. 20a**

***Colossians 3:20 (NKJV)***

***20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.***

#### **▪ The Childrens job in the family**

- OBEY

***Ephesians 6:2 (NKJV)***

***2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise:***

- We need to TEACH our children to respect Authority
- It will be a lot safer and easier on them as they grow

#### **▪ Obey as a Child**

- As adults – We Respect
- Take care of when they need it

#### **○ 2<sup>nd</sup> For this is well pleasing to the Lord:**

***Colossians 3:20 (NKJV)***

***20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.***

#### **▪ When a child respects his parent’s authority**

- They will respect God’s order of authority in other areas of life.

- **Remember**

- 1 Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft

- **Second: How Living for Jesus Affects Parents (Fathers) v. 21**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Fathers, do not provoke your children v. 21**

**Colossians 3:21 (NKJV)**

**21** *Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

- **Provoke –**

- Greek: Erethizo –
  - Means: To stir up, to provoke; to nag as a habit; from eris – contention, strife, wrangling

- **Discouraged –**

- Greek: Athumeo (“not” + “passion”)
  - Means: To be disheartened, dispirited, broken in spirit
    - Present tense, “Continued Discouragement”

- **Lesson**

- Don’t crush their passion
  - Children who grow up with parents who provoke them will become discouraged.
  - They will not feel the love and the support from their parents like they should
  - They will come to believe that the whole world is against them
- If I can offer some advice – Things I wish I had done different

- LOVE is Spelled - TIME
- Talk WITH more
- LISTEN More

## **Affects Our Workplace vs. 22-4:1**

### **First: How Living For Jesus Affects Bondservants (Employees) v. 22-25**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Obey in all things your masters according to the flesh v. 22**

#### ***Colossians 3:22 (NKJV)***

***22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.***

#### **▪ Bondservants –**

- Greek: Doulos
  - Means: A slave, bondman, man of servile condition
- Context
  - The population of the Roman Empire in Paul's day was around 65 million.
    - Somewhere between 25-30% of the population of the Roman Empire at that time was made up of slaves – or around 20 million slaves.
    - Many people who came to church were slaves.
  - What is a “slave”?
    - We would think of this as an Employee

▪ **According to the flesh –**

- My Earthly BOSS
- Paul clarifies that he’s talking about “fleshly” or “human” masters.
- I have an obligation to my flesh and blood boss at work.

▪ **Masters –**

- Greek: Kurios
- Means: he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; lord
- **That means your “boss”.**

▪ **Not with Eyeservice –**

- Greek: Ophthalmodouleia (“eye” + “serve”)
- Means: Service performed only under the master’s eyes
- That’s the guy who is only working hard to catch the boss’ eye.

▪ **Men-Pleasers –**

- Greek: Anthropeareskos (“man” + “pleasing”)
- Means: Studying to please man, courting the favor of men
- Some employees will do anything just to keep the boss happy.

▪ **Sincerity –**

- Greek: Haplotes (“not” + “folds”)

- Means: singleness, mental honesty; the virtue of one who is free from hypocrisy; nothing to hide
- This is how we are to work. We don't work hard to be seen or to please the boss, we work hard to please someone else.

▪ **Fearing God –**

- Greek: Phobeo –
- Means: To reverence; to treat with reverential obedience
- If you obey out of fear of God and not your boss, because you want to honor God, then you'll work a little differently.

○ **2<sup>nd</sup> Whatever You DO v. 23**

***Colossians 3:23 (NKJV)***

**23** *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,*

▪ **Heartily –**

- Greek: Psuche –
- Means: Breath; the soul

▪ **No Matter where you Work**

- The REAL Boss is JESUS
- You work to please Jesus

○ **3<sup>rd</sup> Knowing That**

***Colossians 3:24 (NKJV)***

**24** *knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

- We ought to be serving the Lord
  - No matter you job – task – ITS ALL FOR JESUS
- **4<sup>th</sup> But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done v. 25**

**Colossians 3:25 (NKJV)**

*25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.*

- **When a Christian worker does poorly in his job**
  - They should not expect special compassion from his boss
  - Being a Christian make us more responsible, not less responsible.

**• Second: How Living or Jesus Affects Masters (Employers) v. 4:1**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair v. 4:1**

**Colossians 4:1 (NKJV)**

*1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.*

- Employers
  - Treat your Employees with GREAT Respect
  - Knowing that you have to give an Account for how they are treated

**Closing**

- Everything we ARE and Everything we DO
  - Must reflect Jesus

