

Colossians 3:18-4:1 Families, be gracious to one another as Jesus is with you, His body
(NIV Pew Bible Page 1184) **4.03.18**

- 1] Paul :where we are – raised with Christ (3:1), hidden with Christ in God (3), appearing with Him (4)
- 2] Therefore - put to death earthly nature (3:5-11), put on (heavenly) (12-16)
- 3] Whatever you do – a) in name of Jesus, b) giving that the Father through Jesus (3:17)

???? Abrupt and issue ???

- 1] the background - Society was a mishmash of civil and religious order
*Eg A Jewish pop. of about 2000 from Mesopotamia and Babylon, had been settled in the area around 200 BC by the Greek emperor, Antiochus the Great. Their religious identity was very confused – a Jewish lady was known to be simultaneously, honorary ruler of the synagogue and a priestess of the imperial cult. (Inscriptional evidence nos 530 and 559 – Ramsay, **Cities and Bishoprics of Phrygia** ii Oxford 1897)*
- 2] Addressed family unit
Nb family relationships basic building block of society – threatened in 60 AD and today
- 3] No comment about wider society –
eg OT business women in (Prov 31:13 ff); NT – Lydia dealer in purple clothe (Acts 16:14,15)

As is fitting in the Lord (18b)

- 1] as is fitting lit ‘as comes up to’
- 2] in the Lord Cf (4:7, 17)
Nb your primary id is ‘in the Lord’ cf (3:3) ie as part of Jesus
**the Lord reigns over all. Act to others as you do to him*(cf Matt 25:40)*
** make supreme, first calling – OBEY THE LORD**

Wives (18a)

- 1] Paul was revolutionary r/e woman / man and all relationships
Cf (Gal3:28)
- 2] Wives submit to husband = first addressed
cf (Eph 5:22)
Nb A reflection that Eve sinned first (Gen 3:6; 1 Tim 2:14)
- 3] Submission
 - a) to one another
Cf Romans 13:1ff; Ephesians 5:21ff; 1 Peter 3:1
 - b) to God (James 4:7)
 - c) to husbands**Wives submit to husbands**

Husband (19)

- 1] Love your wives
gk agape, self-sacrificial love
Cf God’s love for world (Jn 3:16) Jesus love for disciples (Jn 13:34)
- 2] harsh, bitter
cf (James 3:11,14)
Husbands love / care for your wives self sacrificially

Children (20)

- 1] Children became adults, in Paul’s Jewish culture, at their ‘Bar mitzvah’ at the age of about 12 years old. From this time marriage was possible and adult employment was expected
- 2] Obey your parents in everything

Children obey your parents in all things (in the Lord)

2] 'Pleases the Lord'

nb unusual phrase(John 8:29; Eph 5:10; 1 Tim 2:3)

The Lord may be pleased by our behaviour in relating to one another

Fathers (21)

1] don't embitter / be harsh –

Ie 'provoke to anger' -ve provoke the Lord to Jealousy (1 Cor 10:22) +ve provoke unto love (Heb 10:24)

2] they will become disheartened

Ie cowed, unmotivated

Slaves (22-25)

1] The focus on slaves?

a) Runaway slave Onesimus with Tychicus (4:7,9; also Book of Philemon)

b) Slaves were most of church? (Cf I Cor 1:22)

2] Obey (22/23) -

a) 'Sincerity of heart' (22)

b) 'with all your soul' (23)

3] with Reverence (22) = lit 'fear of the Lord'

Nb beginning of wisdom (Ps 110:10) delight in (Is 11:3) walking in ... (Acts 9:3) knowing ... we persuade men (2 Cor 5:11)

The fear of the Lord is the backdrop for human action.

Slaves obey your earthly masters – all the time and out of fear for the Lord

4] you will receive an inheritance (24)

Cf inheritance of saints in light (1:12)

inheritance – kill and have his I (Mt 21:38) in Kingdom of God (Eph 5:5); imperishable (1 Pet 1:4)

(Nb slaves could not inherit property)

GRACE We will receive and inheritance (not payment)

Slaves work hard and the Lord will reward you

5] Lord Christ you are serving(24)

1) Who - God (1:10) Messiah (1:1-4)

Nb used once in Bible (Rom 16:1)

2) What - service

JESUS The Lord Christ expects our service

JESUS The Lord Christ / Jesus is the one we serve

6] No Favouritism (25) = lit 'respect of persons'

nb The Lord will judge (Matt 7:1)

Don't worry or judge – the Lord will give everyone their due

Masters (4:1)

1] provide what is just/righteous) and equal

2] You have a heavenly master

Gk kurios - Lord – earthly and heavenly

Master be just and fair - the Lord is watching and will call you to account

MP Christians relate to one another with reference to the Lord to whom we will all have to give account.

KV 'Relate to one another' – as is fitting in the Lord' (18)