

Participant Guide

Week 1 – Colossians 3:18-21

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.

Review Questions

1. What are some of the major takeaways from the sermon for you this week?
2. What did you learn about the word 'submit'? How does this impact your understanding of the relationship of wives and husbands? Are there other areas of life where you see that submission should be offered?
3. What are some practical ways husbands can show love to their wives?
4. Discuss the statement, "obedience is not simply compliance, but should reflect a change in the heart". What are some ways to tell if heart change is taking place in children? What are some ways to help encourage such heart change?
5. There will be times when the other person in a relationship is not upholding their "end of the bargain", how can we approach these situations?

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Week 1 – Colossians 3:22 – 4:1

²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

***1** Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.*

Review Questions

1. Pastor opened the sermon by talking about slavery, and how people use that as a "knock" against Christianity, what are some of the arguments against Christianity that you hear, and what can we say to them?
2. When it comes to your job, do you feel like God has placed you where you are supposed to be? What steps can we take to better evaluate the circumstances of our jobs?
3. What are some practical ways that we can improve our performance at work? Do you agree that witnessing for the Lord in your work doesn't always involve direct evangelism?
4. What are some of the challenges to living out your faith at work?
5. What are some of the challenges to being under authority? What are some of the challenges to being in a place of authority?
6. What does it look like to be "working for Jesus" in your job/jobs? What areas of life does this apply to outside of employment?

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Week 3 – Colossians 4:2-6

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Review Questions

1. When is your prayer life strongest? Weakest?
2. What do you pray for most often?
3. Do you tend to view prayer as a 'Get-To' or a 'Have-To'?
4. Are you regularly being watchful for events/people/circumstances God is bringing into your life?
Tell us about any recent ones.
5. What is something that you tend to take for granted? How would more gratitude and thankfulness impact your life?
6. Have you ever been on the outside looking in? How about on the inside looking out?
7. Who is someone you admire that always tries to include everyone?

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Week 4 – Mark 12: 28-31

28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" 29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Review Questions

1. If you were God, what would be your 'most important commandment' to your people?
2. What does it mean to you that God tells us to Love above all?
3. What hinders you from loving God with all that you have? What specific areas are difficult?
4. What is your attitude when bringing a gift to God? Why?
5. What are some practical steps we can take in the next few weeks to move God to the top of our priority list?

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Week 5 – Ephesians 3: 20-21 & Ephesians 4: 2-3

Ephesians 3

20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 4

2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace

Review Questions

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word 'church'?
2. Is it surprising to you that the church is God's chosen instrument for carrying out His work?
3. Why do you think God intends to use us to share the Gospel?
4. What are the gifts and abilities that you have that you think can be used in the church?
5. Why is unity so important for God's church and His purposes?
6. What are some areas from Ephesians 4 above that you feel that you could grow in to help serve the church?

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Week 6 – Dream Big: “In Our Mission”

Romans 5

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Luke 15

Parable of the Lost Sheep, Parable of the Lost Coin & Parable of the Lost (Prodigal) son.

Review Questions

1. Take some time to discuss the reading and the 3 parables from Luke 15. What stood out to you?
2. What is your reaction to this understanding of God as the One who seeks after the lost?
3. Are there people in your life that could be the “one more”? If you are comfortable, share with the group about who these people are.
4. What are the things that prevent you from reaching out or sharing your faith with these people?
5. What are the things that prevent them from receiving that message?
6. What makes for an effective testimony? How do you think we should go about sharing our faith and reaching the lost?
7. Share an idea for a new ministry opportunity that you believe GraceHill will be able to offer in the future.

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Week 7 – Dream Big: “In Our Future”

Joshua 24

14 “Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Review Questions

1. What are some of the things that you experienced growing up that have shaped your faith?
2. What challenges against faith do our youth face?
3. How are these challenges similar to the past? How are they the same?
4. What challenges do we face in passing along our faith to the next generation?
5. What are some of the things that we can do in our families to shape the faith of the next generation?
6. What are some of the things that we can do in our church to shape the faith of the next generation?

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Week 8 – Dream Big: “Through our Generosity”

2 Corinthians 9

7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.” 10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Review Questions

1. Do you agree that spenders and savers are the two types of people when it comes to money?
2. What is it about money and possessions that make it so easy to want to put our trust in them?
3. Pastor made the comment that we in America are rich compared to most of the world – what makes it hard for us to recognize this?
4. How have you experienced God’s sustaining power in your life? How have you seen God provide?
5. What steps can we take in building our trust in the Lord as our provider?

“Digging Deeper”

READ 1 Timothy 6: 6-8; 17-19 and 2 Corinthians 8: 1-9. What similar themes do you see here compared with our reading from Sunday? What are some new thoughts or insights that these readings bring?

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Week 9 – 2 Timothy

Read 2 Timothy Chapter 1

Review Questions

1. Did you learn anything new about this book of the bible?
2. What is fear and what do you believe gives rise to it?
3. What areas of your life are most impacted by fear? What areas of your life are less impacted by fear?
4. God gives us a spirit of power, love and self-discipline...how do these work together to combat fear?
5. What is courage? How does it relate to fear?

“Digging Deeper”

Read Proverbs 9:10. How does ‘fear of the Lord’ compare to the fear we often exhibit towards other things in our lives?

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Week 10 – 2 Timothy

Read 2 Timothy Chapter 2

Review Questions

1. What is the primary way that you communicate with others? Does it change based on the relationship?
2. We discussed that in our speech we may lack respect for God, others and even ourselves – which one do you think is most challenging for you?
3. Do you believe that words are powerful? Do you recognize the influence that you may have with your words?
4. We are told to stay away from foolish controversies, why is it tempting to join these?
5. Discuss one specific area where you can begin using your speech in more positive ways.

“Digging Deeper”

Read James 3: 5-12. How does James’ discussion of the power of our speech compare to what the lessons from 2 Timothy?