

Colossians: Week Seven

Have the group read **Colossians 3:18-25** prior to coming to small group. Ask them to take notes on what they see in this passage and to read it over and over again before coming. The goal of this week is to understand ways to live in relationship with others and how this affects our relationship with God.

Opening

What are the things that tend to make relationships messy (e.g. jealousy, competition)?

Discussion

What does it mean for a wife to be subject to or submit to her husband? Where else in Scripture do we see this? How is this different from what our current culture tells us?

Why is it important for husbands to not embitter their wives or treat them harshly (See Ephesians 5:22-33 and 1 Peter 3:1-7- have someone read these aloud to the group)?

How does the idea of submission by the wife and leadership and love by the husband work together? What would this look like if it were done God's way?

What does it look like to be obedient to your parents in all things? Are we to do this even if they are not believers?

Thought none of us are actual slaves, what can we learn from v. 22-25 apply to our lives?

Why is it challenging to work as for the Lord rather than for men? Why is it important that we strive to view our work and lives this way?

Application

Even if you are not married or plan on being married anytime soon, what can you do to prepare yourself to be the husband or wife that God has called you to be?

How can you make sure that you are being obedient to your parents and honoring God?

What are you going to do to discipline yourself to have an attitude of serving Christ and not men?

What are some things that you can do to have God-honoring, Christ-like relationships with people?

Conclusion

Relationships can be messy because they involve people. No matter what role you have, whether you are a husband, or a wife, or a child, or a parent, or a worker, God has a purpose and calling for you to fulfill in that role. This calling is to follow God's direction and glorify him in all that you do.

Each of these roles is about living out the God-designed way to do life and relationships. By following his design instead of the world's design we will accomplish 3 things. 1) We will bring glory to God 2) We will be a solid witness for Jesus Christ to others who see us and 3) We will have better relationships with one another.

God knows what he is doing. Sometimes we think that his way doesn't work and want to follow what the world prescribes, but every time we will learn that God does know what he is doing and that when we follow his path and design things work out a lot better in the end.

Prayer

Pray that God would help you to be who he has called you to be in each relationship that you have. Pray that by striving to live life his way that you will be able to reflect his glory and be a good witness to others. Pray for strength to go against what the world tells us to do and to stand up against temptation.

***Make sure everyone knows when and where to meet next week.*