

#everythingchanges

Living Out the Gospel In My Relationships

Colossians 3:18-4:1

March 23, 2014

Overview: Paul continues to challenge us to consider how the gospel is lived out in everyday life. This week's passage focuses on our relational world. What does it look like for us to live out the gospel in our homes and in our places of work? If love is the core ethic of God's kingdom, what does that look like for a husband, for a wife, for a worker, or a boss? It is in these relationships that we are called to live out our gospel-changed lives.

Engaging with each other

1. What is your favorite romantic comedy and why?

Engaging with the Bible

1. How do the prior verses of chapter 3 of Colossians provide context for how we are to apply the instructions Paul gives for these various relationships?
2. For each of the family relationships listed, state in your own words the what and the why of Paul's instructions

Husbands

Wives

Children

Fathers

Why are close relationships such a challenge to living out the gospel?

3. While we do not have in our setting a direct correspondence to slaves and masters, we do find subordinate relationships fairly commonly in our work worlds. With this in mind consider the following. Why do you think Paul gives so much attention to the role of the slave? How do these instructions apply to our work situations?
4. How do verses 22-23 transform our view of our daily work?
5. If you are in a position of oversight in a work situation how should Paul's instructions to masters help shape the way you do your job? Even if you are not a boss, in what way are we all responsible to be sure that workers are treated justly?

Engaging with our lives

1. What are the most challenging relational situations for you to demonstrate Christ's love?
2. What is one thing you can do this week to act lovingly toward a person with whom you have a close personal relationship?
3. Consider the items you consume and the labor that produced them. What role could verse 4:1 play in your purchasing decisions this week?