

LESSON 14: COLOSSIANS 3:1-25

Our Life in Christ

1. Paul lists a number of virtues in verses 12-17. What does it mean to forgive as the Lord has forgiven you (v. 13; see 1:21-22)? How does love bind all the other Christian graces together (v. 14)?
2. What does it mean “to let the word of Christ dwell in you richly” (v. 16; see also Ephesians 5:18-20)?
3. Paul speaks of being thankful and giving thanks three times in verses 15-17. Why is thankfulness so important? Do you live by being thankful to God? What should be included in your every word and deed (v. 17)?

Submission

1. How does the command to “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” in the parallel passage in Ephesians 5:21 set the pattern for the relationship between husband and wife?
2. What is submission that “is fitting to the Lord” (v. 18)? Of what benefit is this to the marriage, to the woman, to the man, to the Lord?
3. What specific responsibilities does the husband have for the wife (v. 19; see also Ephesians 5:25-33)? Of what benefit is this to the marriage, to the woman, to the man, to the Lord? Why are these commands to submit and to love unconditional, and not dependent upon the behavior of the spouse?
4. What is the basic command to children (v. 20; see also Ephesians 6:1)? What factors are to motivate a child’s obedience to his or her parents (v. 21; see also Ephesians 6:2-3)? When do you cease to be a child to your parents?
5. Why are fathers told what they are not to do rather than what they are to do (v. 21; see also Ephesians 6:4)? Consider how being motivated to please the Lord and not discourage others will improve relationships in your family.
6. When and how are slaves to obey their masters (v. 22-25; see also Ephesians 6:5-8)? What attitudes are slaves to have toward their work? What are the characteristics of a godly slave? What encourages a slave (v. 24; see also Ephesians 6:8)? What encourages you?
7. What do verses 22-25 (and Ephesians 6:5-8) teach you about the Christian in the work place? What does verse 4:1 say to the employer, the supervisor (see also Ephesians 6:9)?