

Colossians: Rooted & Growing 9

Text: Colossians 3:18-22

Purpose: To become more focused on living out our Christianity in our domestic relationships.

Opening Question: *What's your favorite family TV show? Why?*

Read and Discuss: Colossians 3:18-19

1. *Describe what it looks like for husbands to love their wives? Who were some good examples of husbands that you grew up around? What are some of the memorable moments that you witnessed of husbands doing a good job of loving their wife?*
2. *What happens to a marriage when the husband is harsh with his wife? Explain what "harsh" looks like in a relationship?*
3. *Is it degrading for women to submit to their husbands? What does it look like for a wife to submit herself to her husband?*

Read and Discuss: Colossians 3:20-21

4. *Why is it important for children to obey their parents? What are some of the challenges you have as a parent when it comes to your children obeying you? (If kids are older) What are some of the ways you help your grown children? What wisdom would you desire to give to them today?*
5. *What are some of the tips you've learned in how to discipline your children without them becoming embittered? (If kids are older) How can you as a grandparent support your children in their parenting?*

Read and Discuss: Colossians 3:22

Slavery in biblical times was very different from the slavery practiced in the past few centuries and today. Slavery in the Bible wasn't based exclusively on race. In Bible times, people voluntarily sold themselves as slaves when they could not pay their debts or provide for their families. Other times Paul challenges the authority of the slave/master structure, but here he is writing to how people should respond when the structure hasn't changed. The best application for us today is to see this as employer/employee.

6. *How do you see yourself as working for God when you are employed by someone else?*
7. *How can you become a better employer?*