

SOUTHWEST: LIFE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

7-8-07 - “Kingdom Relationship Do’s and Don’ts”

Open: In what relationship(s) in your life do you feel most successful? In what relationship(s) in your life do you feel least successful? What is it in these relationships that does or does not work? What part of that belongs to you? (or what part of that do you have any control over?)

Dig/Discuss: Read Colossians 3:17-4:1 – *“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. 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 embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. 22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win 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 men, 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 his wrong, 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.”*

Vs 18 – Wives

- What negative connotations do people associate with the word submission?
- What does it actually mean to submit?
- Are there exceptions to this “do” for Kingdom wives?

Vs. 19 – Husbands

- What is the “do”, and what is the “do not” in this instruction?
- Why do you think Paul picked these two words out of all he could have?
- Are there exceptions to the “do” for Kingdom husbands?

Vs. 20 – Children

- How did you do at this one growing up?
- How do parents make this difficult for their children to follow?
- Do parents expect this from their children these days?

Vs. 21 – Parents (*The Greek word for “fathers” is interpreted “parents” in Hebrews 11:23*)

- How do parents embitter children (even if it’s unintentionally)?
- Did you ever become “embittered” as a child? How did it happen?
- What is your description of a “discouraged child”?

Vs. 22-24 – Employees/Those under Authority

- Does the Christian employee owe “complete obedience” to their employers?
- How do you serve an unfair employer “as [if] working for the Lord, not for men”?
- How can the promise of vs. 24 serve in this high calling?

4: 1 – Bosses/Those in Authority

- Why do bosses feel the right to treat their employees differently than clients?
- Is that right? Is that fair? In what ways can an employer realistically improve?
- Read the direct teaching of Jesus in Matthew 20:25-28. Are Christian employers to be obviously different as bosses? How extreme should it look to the watching world?

Lifegroup Prayer: Have each group member confess which relationship they would like most to grow in living the Kingdom ways. Pray for everyone specifically this week.