

Pleasing the Lord in Our Human Relationships – Col 3:17-4:6

- I. Introduction
 - a. Our perspective has a fundamental aspect on everything we do in life
 - i. Example: Cashier at store
 - 1. Basic financial transaction
 - 2. But what a difference perspective makes
 - 3. Surly cashier
 - 4. Cheerful cashier
 - ii. Another example: Customer at store
 - iii. How many other areas of our lives are significantly affected by our perspective?
 - 1. Every single one
 - 2. For the Christian: everything is affected by their commitment to Jesus (Col. 3:17)
 - b. We are going to examine some scriptures from Colossians 3 and 4 and see how the perspective of the Christian affects every human relationship they have.
- II. Key thought: Living our lives for the Lord has an effect on every aspect of our human relationships
- III. Pleasing the Lord In the Family (v. 18-21)
 - a. Wives
 - i. Submit
 - 1. There is a big difference between submitting because it is the politically expedient thing to do
 - 2. And submitting because your Lord and Savior wants you to
 - ii. Fitting in the Lord
 - b. Husbands
 - i. Love
 - 1. There is a big difference between loving your wife because of who she is
 - 2. And loving your wife because of who Jesus Christ is
 - ii. Don't be harsh
 - 1. Warned because this is natural
 - 2. If we are viewing life from a natural perspective
 - 3. But NOT as a Christian
 - c. Children
 - i. Obey
 - 1. There is a big difference between obeying your parents because it is the only way to get along in your house
 - 2. And obeying your parents because your Lord and Savior wants you to
 - ii. It Pleases the Lord
 - d. Fathers
 - i. Do not provoke

1. So easy to be harsh, sarcastic, impatient or bitter with our family members
 2. Especially the 100,000th time we have told them the same thing
 3. We are warned because this is natural
 4. If we are viewing life from a natural perspective
 5. But NOT as a Christian
 - a. How many times have we provoked the Lord and He has forgiven us?
 - b. Does keeping that in mind help us when we are impatient with our children
 - c. Yes!
 - ii. Do not discourage
- IV. Pleasing the Lord In the workplace (v. 3:22-4:1)
- a. As servants
 - i. Requires obedience
 - ii. Requires sincerity
 1. Not eye-service
 2. Not people-pleasing
 3. Heartily
 - iii. For God
 1. There is a big difference between sincerely obeying your master to get on his good side or avoid his wrath
 2. And sincerely obeying as you would your Lord and Savior
 - iv. For a reward
 1. All will receive
 - a. The righteous receive a reward from God
 - b. Others also receive their just reward
 - b. As masters
 - i. Just and fair
 1. There is a big difference between treating your workers justly and fairly because you want to maintain a certain reputation
 2. And treating them justly and fairly because your Lord and Savior wants you to
 - ii. Remember your master!
- V. Pleasing the Lord In the World (4:2-6)
- a. Why Before God?
 - i. Any thinking person who looks around him sees things that he wishes were different
 - ii. How do we respond?
 1. Complain
 2. Do something about it
 3. Give up in despair
 4. Some mixture of the three
 - iii. All of these responses are wrong

- 1. As a Christian we know that the first step in dealing with any aspect of two world that we wish were different is
 - 2. To go to God
 - iv. The Christian perspective changes
 - 1. What we do first (Go to God) AND
 - 2. What we think needs changing the most (the spiritual condition of the world)
 - b. Before God
 - i. Constant
 - ii. Watchful
 - iii. Thanksgiving
 - iv. Prayer for those proclaiming the gospel
 - 1. For open doors
 - 2. That they may teach effectively
 - c. Before men
 - i. Act right
 - 1. Requires wisdom
 - 2. Requires time management
 - ii. Speak right
 - 1. Requires grace
 - 2. Requires salt?
- VI. Conclusion
 - a. These verses explain how the perspective of the Christian affects every human relationship
 - i. Christians make
 - 1. The best husbands
 - 2. Wives
 - 3. Parents
 - 4. Children
 - 5. Employers
 - 6. Employees
 - 7. Neighbors
 - 8. Friends
 - ii. IF
 - 1. They understand their position in Christ
 - 2. They allow their faith to influence and shape how they approach every human relationship
 - b. Jesus parable of the unforgiving servant
 - i. He was forgiven
 - 1. But he didn't allow his new position to affect his perspective on his other human relationships
 - 2. He lost his forgiveness
 - ii. We can have the same problem
 - 1. Satan is working hard to distract us from who Jesus us and what we have in him
 - a. He'd like to convince us that

- i. Jesus can't help us
 - ii. Jesus doesn't care
 - iii. We'll never make it to heaven
 - iv. Jesus won't accept us
 - v. Jesus won't make things right
 - vi. We have to take matters into our own hands
 - vii. ALL ARE LIES!
 - b. If we believe them or act like we do
 - i. We will mess up our human relationships
 - ii. Our spiritual relationships
 - iii. And cause sorrow for all except Satan
- 2. But there is no need to
- 3. We are so blessed
 - a. We can freely give
 - i. Cheerfulness
 - ii. Good works
 - iii. Help
 - iv. That something extra
 - v. In all our human relationships
 - b. Our position in Christ is so sure
 - i. We can take risks for God
 - ii. We can take injustice and mistreatment for God
 - iii. We can share the love of Jesus with the unlovable and even our enemies or those who act like our enemies
- iii. Are you a Christian
 - 1. Act like it and you and everyone around you will be blessed by it!
- iv. Are you not a Christian
 - 1. You need to have your whole perspective changed!