

Jesus over Everything → The Household Code

Discussion Guide

Big Picture

The rules Paul gives to the church at Colosse are guidelines for long-term freedom and fulfillment. They are not meant to codify position or power, but about teaching a heart posture of servanthood, love, and care for others.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever lived in a community without boundaries or rules? What was it like?
2. What household rules support your home?
3. When authority is given to you, how do you ensure you use it responsibly?
4. What is your heart posture towards those in authority over you?
5. If you are currently in a position of authority, how does God want you to use it?
6. What does God have for you to do with what you've just heard?

Sermon Notes

Colossians 3:18-4:1, "Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism. Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven."

If the Gospel has landed in your heart it will manifest itself in your mouth, hands, and feet.

"If the home is to be a means of grace it must be a place of rules...the alternative to rule is not freedom but the unconstitutional (and often unconscious) tyranny of the most selfish member." - C.S. Lewis

Philippians 2:5-8, "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"

"You can't impose your will on people's hearts. You can impose it on their hands and feet, but you can't win their hearts with force. You can subject them to your will and get results, but their eyes don't shine. My power is enormous but it exists entirely in my ability to make other people powerful." - Benjamin Zander (Boston Philharmonic Orchestra conductor)

