

The Supremacy of Christ
The Gospel and Relationships
Colossians 3:18-4:1

Introduction

We acknowledge Jesus as the Creator of all things and accept His sacrifice on the Cross as sufficient to rescue us from this sinful life. When we do that, God initiates a significant and ongoing renovation project to help us become what he created us to be (3:10).

1. The Holy Spirit works in us to make us more and more like _____.
2. God's plan of healing and restoration focuses upon building vital and healthy _____.
3. Without a stable relationship with God, none of your other relationships will reach their full _____.
4. Jesus said that the two greatest commandments are to love God and love our _____ as ourselves.
5. In Chapter 3, Paul turns his attention to our relationships with others, beginning with the closest human relationship, _____.

I. The Marriage Relationship.

6. Some people hear "wives, _____," and that's it; they're turned off and won't listen to anything further.
7. But Paul says the submission is to your _____ husband, and as it is fitting in the Lord.
8. He adds, "Husband, _____ your wives and do not be bitter toward them."

9. No society or relationship can survive without order and _____.
10. Submission acknowledges a God-appointed _____.
11. In terms of value, each person is _____ in the eyes of God.
12. You can't _____ submission, it must be offered.
13. In a marriage, a wife's submission is never to be _____ on her by a demanding husband.
14. "Wives, submit to your own husbands" defines the _____ of a wife's submission.
15. Paul _____ a wife's submission to her husband "as is fitting in the Lord."
16. Submission is only tested when there's a _____.
17. As is the case in every human relationship, the command to submit is not _____.
18. Paul's words to husbands safeguard his words to _____.
19. The ancient Greek word for love is _____. It puts a significant obligation upon the husband.
20. Paul really means, "Husbands, continually practice self-denial and self-_____ for the sake of your wives."
21. Paul also says that the husband is not to be _____ towards his wife.

II. The Parent-Child Relationship

22. Paul has in mind children who are still in their parents' household and under their _____.
23. When a child grows up and leaves home, he is no longer under the same obligation of obedience, but the responsibility to _____ your father and mother remains.
24. The most important reason children should _____ their parents is because it is "well-pleasing to the Lord."
25. Paul says, "Fathers, do not _____ your children."
26. Parents have a responsibility to _____ themselves and not push their children to the brink of frustration and inner hostility.
27. To provoke means to irritate by exacting commands, perpetual fault finding and _____ interference.
28. Children who grow up with parents who constantly provoke them will become _____.
29. It's important to season our parenting with lots of _____.

III. Employer/Employee Relationships

30. As Christians, we should show a proper and submissive attitude towards our _____.
31. Employees have a God-ordained _____ of obedience and submission to their employers or supervisors.
32. Paul assures us that there is a final reward and punishment without _____ when we stand before God.

33. Every human being is to be treated fairly and _____.

34. We must realize that no matter what our position in life, we are required to fulfill our responsibilities as representatives of _____.

Conclusion

35. The more we thank God for all He has given me through Christ, the better I can _____ His love towards others.

36. Receiving God's love helps me _____ and cherish the relationship I have with God.

Building healthy relationships with God, my wife, my children, my boss, and my fellow employees helps me become the person God created me to be. It helps me put aside a self-centered lifestyle. It helps me to be a giver instead of a taker. And it leads me towards a fulfilling life in Christ.

The most important work you can do while you are journeying through this earth is to build healthy relationships and remember that God loves people most of all, so treat them well.

ANSWERS

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| 1. Christ | 13. Forced | 25. Provoke |
| 2. Relationships | 14. Scope | 26. Control |
| 3. Potential | 15. Limits | 27. Unnecessary |
| 4. Neighbors | 16. Disagreement | 28. Discouraged |
| 5. Marriage | 17. Absolute | 29. Grace |
| 6. Submit | 18. Wives | 30. Boss |
| 7. Own | 19. Apace | 31. Responsibility |
| 8. Love | 20. Sacrifice | 32. Partiality |
| 9. Submission | 21. Bitter | 33. Justly |
| 10. Order | 22. Authority | 34. Christ |
| 11. Equal | 23. Honor | 35. Practice |
| 12. Command | 24. Obey | 36. Appreciate |