



The New Perspective in Relationships

Colossians 3:17 – 4:1

#9 in a series on Colossians

January 1, 2023

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Theme: **Your relationships should be grounded in Christ.**

Your relationships should be grounded in correct motivations.

1. To obey God. (18)
“as is *fitting* in the Lord”
2. To please God. (20)
“as is *pleasing* in the Lord”
3. To serve God. (22-24)
“as *for* the Lord”

Your relationships should be grounded in mutual obligations.

1. Submission — Love (Wives — Husbands). (18-19)
2. Obedience — Encouragement (Children — Parents). (20-21)
3. Obedience — Justice (Workers — Employers). (3:22 – 4:1)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read Colossians 3:18 – 4:1. All of our relationships, and every part of each one, should be grounded in Christ. This begins with having correct motivations. The first motivation we noted yesterday was to obey God. While this is connected specifically to wife-husband relationships in 3:18, it has an application to every relationship.

Our desires and actions are to be “as is fitting in the Lord,” to reflect who He is and follow His commands. List some of your relationships—a few with which you are happy, and also a few with which you are not happy. Are there any disobedient attitudes and actions? If so, take them to God and start obeying Him now.

Tuesday. Pleasing God is the second motivation to ground our relationships (3:20). Our obedience to God should not come from fear or trying to earn God’s favor, but from a deep, committed desire to please Him. It is not rote obedience that God desires and blesses, but obedience from a heart that seeks to please Him (see Isaiah 29:13-14; Matthew 15:7-9)

Are there some relationships in which you are obeying God, doing the right things, but not really because you want to please God in them? Be specific. Ask God to keep on prompting, conviction and encouraging you; to keep on changing your heart.

Wednesday. The third and final motivation for grounding our relationships we looked at on Sunday is to serve God (3:22-24). Our relationships are to be genuine (no one should be our *project*), but ultimately we are to serve God in them.

Think through some different types of relationships you have (family, work, community, church; close, distant; etc.). Does it ever cross your mind in some of them that you should and can be serving God in them? If so, how are you serving God in these relationships?

Thursday. The three mutual obligations and relationships Paul speaks of in the section we looked at on Sunday are: Submission—Love (Wives—Husbands), Obedience—Encouragement (Children—Parents), and Obedience—Justice (Workers— Employers). That covers a lot of ground!

Review 3:18 – 4:1. Ask God to help you to identify and begin working on one of these mutual obligations and relationships. Keep daily notes on your thoughts, prayer and actions on this. As you keep at it in the days ahead, ask God to point out one of the other two that you might/should begin working on next.

Friday/Saturday. On Sunday we plan to conclude this series as we look at 4:2-18. Read through these verses as you prepare for our time together.