


Day 1


 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Christ is the Center of Your Home; all is a Reflection of 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.

Q1. [Verse 18] How do you define “submit” in this verse?

 **sub•mit** (səb' mit) [Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved.]
v. -mit•ted, -mit•ting. v.t.
1. to give over or yield to the power or authority of another (often used reflexively).
2. to subject to some kind of treatment or influence.
3. to present for approval or consideration.
4. to state or urge with deference; suggest or propose.

Q2. [Verse 18] Does “submit” require a wife to accept either verbal and/or physical abuse from her husband?

Yes? }
No? } Why?

Q3. [Verse 18] Do you believe that God promotes order? Or chaos? Why?

Genesis 2:7 [NIV-1984]

the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Genesis 2:16-23 [NIV-1984]

¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

¹⁸ The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

¹⁹ Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air.

Lesson 6: Colossians 3:18-23 & 4:1-18

He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.

²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

Genesis 3:1-6 [NIV-1984]

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

⁴ "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."


⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. . .

¹⁷ To Adam [God] said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.


1 Timothy 2:13-14 [NIV-1984]

¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴ And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.


Q4. [Verse 19] Consider the various meanings of the word "love" (see [Six Greek definitions for "love"](#)). Which Greek meaning for "love" applies in this verse?


 " 'Love' is ἀγαπάω, the word which expresses the highest spiritual affection – 'even as Christ loved the Church' (Ephesians 5:25). Here, first and most of all, the 'new commandment' of John 13:34 applies." [© 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2010: *The Pulpit Commentary*, Electronic Database by BibleSoft, Inc.]

Q5. [Speculation] Why did Paul feel it necessary to add "do not be harsh with them"?

 The Ephesians StudySheet [[Lesson 10: Ephesians 5:22-33](#)] discusses in some detail the relationship and responsibilities between wives and husbands.

Lesson 6: Colossians 3:18-23 & 4:1-18

 The following comment was copied from the StudySheet for [Lesson 2: 1 Timothy 2:1-15](#), page 12:
“. . . Biblical marriage between two Believers is a partnership, an equal partnership. The husband is to treat his wife with agapé love, to care for her, to serve her, to consider her needs before his own. However, in faith-related matters, the husband prayerfully takes the lead and his wife submits to his leadership. Our God is a God of order, not of chaos. God has ordained the marriage relationship. This does not mean that one partner can force or coerce or abuse the other partner to act in a certain way. In a marriage between two Believers, God must be center and both partners must rely upon Scripture, prayer, and the Holy Spirit for guidance in their marriage relationship. See Acts 17:11 – be a Berean.” [StudySheets: Lesson 2: 1 Timothy 2:1-15, page 12. <https://trinitybereans.org/1Tim/1Timothy-02-01-15.pdf>]

 **Do not be harsh with them:** [Do not] “[turn] love into hatred of their persons; [or rule] with rigour and in a tyrannical manner; [or behave] towards [your wife] in a morose, churlish, and ill-natured way; [or give] them either bitter words, or blows, [or deny] them . . . affection, care, provision, protection, and assistance, [or use] them as servants, or worse. All [of] which is barbarous, brutish, . . . unchristian, and utterly unbecoming the Gospel.” [©about 1760, Exposition of the Entire Bible by John Gill. Text Courtesy of Internet Sacred Texts Archive. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/colossians/3-19.htm>]

Colossians 3:8 [NIV-1984]

But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

Ephesians 4:31-32 [NIV-1984]

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.
³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Proverbs 5:15, 18-19 [NIV-1984]

¹⁵ Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. . . .
¹⁸ May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. ¹⁹ A loving doe, a graceful deer — may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.

1 Peter 3:7 [NIV-1984]


Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Q6. What is ‘servanthood’? Is ‘servanthood’ a fundamental value of Jesus’ ministry? How do you demonstrate ‘servanthood’ at home, at work, in a restaurant?

Servanthood defined:

Is servanthood a theme? Yes? No? Why?

How do you demonstrate servanthood? Home? Work? Restaurant?

 servanthood (or servanthship) n
- the condition of being a servant (one who serves)

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Matthew 20:26-28 [NIV-1984]

[Jesus was teaching His disciples:]

²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."


Lesson 6: Colossians 3:18-23 & 4:1-18

Day 2

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²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Q7. Why might Paul include this admonition in his letter?

 “We must never separate the privileges and duties of the gospel. Submission is the duty of wives. But it is submission, not to a severe lord or stern tyrant, but to her own husband, who is engaged to affectionate duty. And husbands must love their wives with tender and faithful affection. Dutiful children are the most likely to prosper. And parents must be tender, as well as children obedient.” [©1706, *Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible* by Matthew Henry; <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/colossians/3-20.htm>]


Q8. By his statement, do you think Paul is targeting the toddler? The pre-teen? The teenager? The adult child?

Q9. If a parent demands something harmful or hurtful, how should the child respond?

Q10. Children are always testing their boundaries. If your son or daughter refuses to yield in obedience, how should she or he be treated, or punished, or loved? [Granted, books have been written on this subject. Please be brief.]

Lesson 6: Colossians 3:18-23 & 4:1-18

²¹ Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.


 Note: Our standard NIV-1984 version of the Bible translates the original text as “fathers”. However, some versions broadened the translation to “parents” as in “*Parents, don’t come down too hard on your children or you’ll crush their spirits.* [The Message (MSG)]”.

Q11. The International Children’s Bible (ICB) version translates this verse: “*do not nag your children. If you are too hard to please, they may . . . stop trying.*” How do parents walk that fine line between ‘embittering’ your child and providing discipline?

Q12. Are parents to become the child’s friend?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

Day 3

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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.

Q13. Why would Paul admonish slaves to “obey your earthly masters in everything”?

Q14. Should slaves be obedient when instructed to perform evil? (Whom does a Believer serve?)

Lesson 6: Colossians 3:18-23 & 4:1-18

Ephesians 6:5-8 [The Message (MSG); a paraphrase]

Servants, respectfully obey your earthly masters but always with an eye to obeying the real master, Christ. Don't just do what you have to do to get by, but work heartily, as Christ's servants doing what God wants you to do. And work with a smile on your face, always keeping in mind that no matter who happens to be giving the orders, you're really serving God. Good work will get you good pay from the Master, regardless of whether you are slave or free.


Q15. At our place of work, does the master / slave relationship exist? How should we act?

Q16. In our workplace, do we have the freedom to flee an abusive 'master'? Or must we accept workplace abuse and try to persevere through it? At what point do we seek God's counsel?

Freedom to flee abuse?

Must we accept workplace abuse?

When to seek God's counsel?

 Learn from my experience. I was laid-off from a job. It was devastating. I had an idea for a sole-proprietorship. However, I feared the unknown: lack of a steady paycheck, lack of job security, uncertainty over future contracting jobs (marketing), and on and on and on. Thirty-five years later, in retrospect I believe my fear outweighed my faith; I believe that God had given me a superb opportunity to exercise my faith . . . and I rejected His offer. Instead, I submitted resume after resume, until I finally found a position that came with a reduced monthly paycheck working for — what turned-out to be — a monster of a master. What-if? What if I had accepted God's offer and trusted Him? Sometimes, God will use our current circumstances to change the course of our lives — all we need do is take the first step . . . in faith. Learn from me.

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.


Q17. Whether we are at home, or work, or play, Whom do we serve?

Q18. are these two verses a good motto to remember when at work?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

Lesson 6: Colossians 3:18-23 & 4:1-18

Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.

Q19. Does this verse imply Judgment? By Whom? What is the consequence from the judgment?

Judgment?

Whom?

Consequence?

Revelation 20:11-15 [NIV-1984]

[Typically, these verses are referred to as the "Great White Throne Judgment".]

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Q20. What does the phrase "there is no favoritism" mean to you?

James 2:1-9 [NIV-1984]

¹ My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism.

² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶ But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

Lesson 6: Colossians 3:18-23 & 4:1-18

Chapter 4

^{4:1} Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

Q21. After Paul's previous admonitions to slaves, perhaps masters thought that they were too good for a reminder. Then, suddenly Paul reminded them to do "what is right and fair". Is there a specific phrase in verse 4:1 that stands-out to you? Why did you select that?


Romans 13:7 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Ephesians 6:9 [The Message (MSG); a paraphrase]

Masters, it's the same with you. No abuse, please, and no threats. You and your servants are both under the same Master in heaven. He makes no distinction between you and them.

Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Follow the Example of Christ Jesus, He Is Our Everything

² Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Q22. [Verse 2] How would you explain the phrase "Devote [ourselves] to prayer"? How often should we pray?

Explanation?

How often?

Lesson 6: Colossians 3:18-23 & 4:1-18

Mark 11:22-25 [The Message (MSG); a paraphrase]

“. . . That’s why I urge you to pray for absolutely everything, ranging from small to large. Include everything as you embrace this God-life, and you’ll get God’s everything. And when you assume the posture of prayer, remember that it’s not all asking. If you have anything against someone, forgive — only then will your heavenly Father be inclined to also wipe your slate clean of sins.”

Philippians 4:6 [International Children’s Bible (ICB)]

Do not worry about anything. But pray and ask God for everything you need. And when you pray, always give thanks.

Q23. [Verse 3] Where is Paul located? And why?

Location?

Why?

Q24. [Verse 3] This is the great missionary — the Apostle Paul. Why is Paul, of all people, asking for people to intercede and “pray . . . that God may open a door for our message”?

Why?

Romans 8:26-27 [(NIV-1984)]

²⁶In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints [Believers] in accordance with God’s will.

Hebrews 7:25 [(NIV-1984)]

Therefore, he [Jesus] is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

James 5:16-18 [The Message (MSG); a paraphrase]

Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. [Or from the NIV-2011 translation] ^{16b}*The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

Elijah, for instance, human just like us, prayed hard that it wouldn’t rain, and it didn’t—not a drop for three and a half years. Then he prayed that it would rain, and it did. The showers came and everything started growing again.

Q25. [Verse 3] Should we ask God to send non-believers to us to hear our message, our testimony, about the Good News of Christ Jesus? (Is this scary, or what?) Should we ask others to pray for our efforts?

Lesson 6: Colossians 3:18-23 & 4:1-18

Psalm 37:4-5 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

⁴ Enjoy serving the Lord. And he will give you what you want. ⁵ Depend on the Lord. Trust him, and he will take care of you.

Ephesians 6:18-20 [NIV-1984]

[In his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul taught about praying, and then asked them for their prayers:]

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Q26. [Verse 4] Should we also ask God for encouragement and to grant us clarity of the message He wants shared?

Q27. "Oh, my Lord! I am so afraid that I will say the wrong thing and the nonbeliever will run from You, not to You." . . . How do we overcome our fear?


Proverbs 3:5-6 [NIV-1984]

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Q28. What role might the Holy Spirit have as we courageously take the first step, whether it be to preach, teach, or outreach?

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Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Q29. [Verse 5] Who are “outsiders”?

Q30. [Verse 5] Before we even open our mouths in greeting, do our actions, our words, our politics, our circle of friends impact our example (and our intended message) to the unchurched, the nonbeliever?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

Q31. [Verse 6] Should we be fearful that we will say the wrong thing and cause someone to reject Christ Jesus?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

Q32. [Verse 6] There is no right or wrong answer to this question: how should we prepare so that we can obey this verse? (Some potential examples: pray, seek the Holy Spirit, anticipate questions and write-out our answers beforehand, watch videos of street-corner evangelists, take the 1st step in faith, ‘just do it’, others?) Thoughts?

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Final Requests and Good-bye


⁷Tychicus [Tie-kick-us] will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. ⁸I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. ⁹He is coming with Onesimus [Oh-nëss-ÿ-müss], our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

Q33. Why does Paul want to send his letter via friends? Are these friends eye-witnesses? Why might this be important?

¹⁰My fellow prisoner Aristarchus [Air-ÿ-stär-cüss] sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas [Bär-näh-büss]. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) ¹¹Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me.

¹²Epaphras [Ëh-päh-frähs], who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. ¹³I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea [Lāy-oh-dī-see-ă] and Hierapolis [Higher-äp-oh-liss].

¹⁴Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas [Dë-mäss] send greetings.

 [Verse 14] Yes, this is the “Luke” who wrote the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.

Q34. Why might Paul want to introduce and validate these co-workers in this letter to the Colossians (and Laodiceans)?

Lesson 6: Colossians 3:18-23 & 4:1-18

¹⁵ Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea [Lāy-ōh-dī-see-ă], and to Nympha [Nīm-fä] and the church in her house.

¹⁶ After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans [Lāy-ōh-dī-see-ăns] and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea [Lāy-ōh-dī-see-ă].

¹⁷ Tell Archippus [R-kīp-ŭs]: "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord."

¹⁸ I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

Q35. Thinking back over the four chapters of Colossians, are there any verses or themes that stand out to you?

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