

Lesson 12: Living With Each Other

Scripture Song: Rejoice always – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Philippians 4:6

A. Husbands and wives

1. Colossians 3:18a How has this counsel been taken out of context and misused?
2. What important qualifier is found in the second half of Colossians 3:18?
3. How do the following verses help us to understand this idea of submission in the family setting?
Ephesians 5:21-22
4. Colossians 3:19 What counsel does the Apostle Paul give to husbands? (see also Ephesians 5:25)
5. We are called to love each other with *agape* love. How would you describe *agape* love?
6. How is such love possible in the human family? Romans 5:5
7. What teaching of Jesus emphasized the importance of loving each other with *agape* love?
John 13:34-35

B. Parents and children

1. Colossians 3:20 What counsel does the Apostle Paul give to children?
2. What other counsel is found in the Scriptures regarding parenting? Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Proverbs 22:6, etc.
3. Is there ever a time when children should disobey their parents? Acts 5:29, Proverbs 4:14-15, etc.
4. Colossians 3:21 What counsel does the Apostle Paul give to fathers? (see also Ephesians 6:4)
5. What encouragement would you give to someone (a child or an adult) who is discouraged by the conduct of their parents?

C. Work relationships

1. Some people are troubled by the Apostle Paul's apparent acceptance of the institution of slavery. What can we learn from his counsel to Philemon regarding the runaway slave Onesimus?
Philemon 15-16
2. Colossians 3:22-25 What principles can we extract from the Apostle Paul's counsel to slaves that could be helpful in our work relationships?
3. Colossians 4:1 What lessons might an employer learn from the Apostle Paul's counsel to masters? (see also Ephesians 6:5-9)

D. Interpersonal relationships

1. Colossians 4:2-4 What blessings come when we pray for others?
2. Colossians 4:5-6 Which part of the Apostle Paul's inspired counsel about interpersonal relationships impacts you the most?