

Colossians 3:15-4:1
Week 8 - The Care and Feeding of Other Christians

? What types of relationships do you have to deal with on a daily basis?

Colossians 3:15-17 (NIV)

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

? Does this passage mean that Christians should not fight or disagree with each other? Why or why not?

? The word that Paul uses for “rule” in verse 15 literally means “umpire” - it’s a verb from athletics. What is Paul trying to say about how decisions should be made in a Christian community?

? Are there any hymns, songs, or psalms that you find serve not only as a means of worship but also as a teaching point for you?

Colossians 3:18-4:1 (NIV)

¹⁸ Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

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

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

²² 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. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

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

? Take a look at the grid below. What do you think was the first-century view of this relationship? How about today's view? How does Paul see it in his letter?

PEOPLE GROUP	1st Century	21st Century	The Biblical view
Christian Believers → Each Other			
Husbands → Wives			
Parents → Children			
Masters → Slaves			

? What does it look like today for wives to submit to their husbands, and husbands to love their wives?

? How are children in today's world called to submit to their parents? How can parents love their children without spoiling them?

? How did Christ's time on earth challenge the cultural view of relationships?

? Which of these relationships do you have the hardest time viewing as one where both parties have obligations to each other?

For Discussion and Accountability

? Which of these types of relationships have you viewed as "what can the other person do for me?"

? How can you commit to serving others in relationships that have been one-sided in the past?