

Jeremy Marrone  
Monday Night Bible Study  
Colossians Collection  
*Colossians 3:18 – 4:18*

### **Christian Conduct Matters**

“In Light of how Jesus has Treated us... How should we treat others?”

#### **Colossians 3**

18 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. 20Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

22Slaves, 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.

#### *Galatians 3:26-29*

So, in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

- Biblical servitude was NOT the same as recent chattel [forced, no rights] slavery based on the color of skin [specifically in the new world]; but based on those who *willingly* live under the employ of another.

#### *Exodus 21:12-27*

**Anyone who strikes a person with a fatal blow is to be put to death.**

13 However, if it is not done intentionally, but God lets it happen, they are to flee to a place I will designate.

14 But if anyone schemes and kills someone deliberately, that person is to be taken from my altar and put to death.

15 “Anyone who attacks their father or mother is to be put to death.

16 “Anyone who kidnaps someone is to be put to death, whether the victim has been sold or is still in the kidnapper's possession.

17 “Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.

18 “If people quarrel and one person hits another with a stone or with their fist and the victim does not die but is confined to bed,

19 the one who struck the blow will not be held liable if the other can get up and walk around outside with a staff; however, the guilty party must pay the injured person for any loss of time and see that the victim is completely healed.

20 “Anyone who beats their male or female slave with a rod must be punished if the slave dies as a direct result,

<sup>21</sup>but they are not to be punished if the slave recovers after a day or two, since the slave is their property [Hebrew: ‘way of making money’].

<sup>22</sup>“If people are fighting and hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman’s husband demands and the court allows.

<sup>23</sup>But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life.

<sup>24</sup>eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

<sup>25</sup>burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

<sup>26</sup>“An owner who hits a male or female slave in the eye and destroys it must let the slave go free to compensate for the eye.

<sup>27</sup>And an owner who knocks out the tooth of a male or female slave must let the slave go free to compensate for the tooth.”

→ God’s standard for the way humans ought to act toward one another didn’t start with the Mosaic law.

Sheva Mitzvot B'nei Noach → The 7 laws of Noah

- Given as a binding law to all children of Noah. (humanity)

1. Establish Laws (and courts)→ Justice
2. Do not curse God
3. Do not practice idolatry
4. No illicit sexuality (forbidden)
5. Do not participate in bloodshed
6. Do not rob
7. Do not eat flesh from a living animal

*Philemon 1:12-19*

<sup>12</sup>I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. <sup>13</sup>I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. <sup>14</sup>But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> **So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.** <sup>18</sup> If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self.

## Colossians 4

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

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

<sup>5</sup> Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

<sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

<sup>7</sup> Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.

<sup>8</sup> I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts.

<sup>9</sup> ***He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you.*** They will tell you everything that is happening here.

<sup>10</sup> My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.)

<sup>11</sup> Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me.

<sup>12</sup> Epaphras, 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.

<sup>13</sup> I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.

<sup>14</sup> Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings.

<sup>15</sup> Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

<sup>16</sup> After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

<sup>17</sup> Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord."

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

## **RESPONSE:**

→ In light of how Jesus has treated us, we should treat others the same:

1. Honor one another.
  - a. Spouses
  - b. Friends
  - c. Parents
  - d. Bosses
  - e. Employees
  - f. Teachers
  - g. Waiters
2. View each other as equals.
  - a. Value human life.
  - b. Seek justice.
  - c. Treat people fairly.
    - i. Leviticus 19:15 - Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great but judge your neighbor fairly.
    - ii. Leviticus 19:18 - Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.
3. Fight for freedom for everyone.
  - a. Physical
  - b. Spiritual
4. Be wise with outsiders.
  - a. Be gracious
  - b. Use wisdom – discernment without suspicion
5. Complete your ministry.