

Reflections

Colossians 3.18-4.1

October 28th, 2018

- Christian masters are called to act justly and treat their servants fairly for God is just and fair - Genesis 18.25; Deuteronomy 32.4; Psalm 50.6

Conclusion

The man, his wife, his children, and his servant formed the most basic a foundational building block in society

Paul reminds followers of Christ that however they fit in this formula they can consciously and deliberately contribute to society

Christianity is rabidly counter-cultural and especially in our world where the family is being redefined we see the timeless word of God still calling us to be His reflection.

Introduction:

There are things that God has given us to help us understand him better

Now we see his application move to the foundation of society: the institution of the family

In the structure of the family we see the reflection of the Trinity, we see the character of God revealed, and we see the heart of God for his people

Main Points: how can we reflect the glory of God in our homes?

1. Through submission with love and gentleness:
 - The instruction to wives is to submit to their husbands
 - God has placed everything under, or in submission to Christ (1Cor. 15.27-28) including:
 - Angels - Hebrews 2.5; 1Peter 3.22 and...
 - The Church - Ephesians 5.24
 - But interestingly, Christ submits:
 - To the Father - Luke 22.42; John 4.34 and...
 - To death - Philippians 2.8; Hebrews 5.7-8

- Husbands are to emulate the character and nature of God in response to their wives' submission
 - To love them.
 - God provides for us - Psalm 68.10; 1Timothy 6.17
 - God protects us - Deuteronomy 23.14; Joshua 24.17; John 17.11
- And to NOT be harsh which is an explicit prohibition of any type of abuse.
 - God is kind - Romans 2.4 and...
 - Compassionate - Lamentations 3.22-23; Psalm 78.38

2. Through obedience and grace:

- The instruction to children is to obey
 - Exodus 20.12; Matthew 15.1-6; 1Peter 5.5
- Fathers are instructed to NOT provoke their children
 - The word translated as “provoke” is also translated as embitter, exasperate, and aggravate. In Greek it is *erethizo* and it means “to stir up, excite, stimulate.”
 - Another definition is: overly finicky or irritating use of parental authority.
 - It also has the connotation of quarreling i.e. Don't start fights with your children

- Fathers are to reflect the character of God portrayed in Exodus 34.6 -- And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, **slow to anger**, abounding in love and faithfulness...
 - Numbers 14.8; Nehemiah 9.17; Psalms 86.15, 103.8, 145.8; Joel 2.13; and Jonah 4.2

3. Through integrity with justice and fairness

- The instruction to slaves is to work with integrity
- *Doulos* - servant, slave, bondservant or -- a slave (literal or figurative, involuntary or voluntary; frequently, therefore in a qualified sense of subjection or subservience):— one who gives himself up wholly to another's will - Exodus 21.2-11
- The instruction to masters is to be just and fair
- There is a definite social distinction between slaves and masters. Interestingly, the word for master is *kyrios*—lord. The same word is used elsewhere with the definite article: the Lord.
- Masters, *kyrios* are to reflect the character of the capital K *Kyrios*. They are to be just and fair.