

# Discovery Group - Colossians

## (7) *Households of Faith*

### **A**ccountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

### **B**ible: Colossians 3:18 - 4:1

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- How are we to relate to one another according to the various roles mentioned in this passage?
- Why is this important?

### **C**ommit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

*Abide*: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

- Read the entire book of Colossians again this week.
- Read 4:2-18 several times this week.

## Households of Faith

Paul continues his description of the new life with instructions regarding how this is expressed in households. Remember that households of this time often included slaves. Obviously, this does not condone that practice, but is dealing with the situation as it existed - and in this teaching we can easily discern principles that impact our own lives in the workplace and in the home.

Wives: submit to your husbands. This is tough language for western followers of Jesus today, but it expresses a timeless truth. We can add to this, "Children, obey your parents," and "Slaves, obey your earthly masters." Submit and obey. What are we to make of this?

First, let us remember that we are doing this because we are chosen, holy, and loved. That is still the foundation and the power for living this out. Secondly, let us look to the example of Jesus.

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant..." (Philippians 2:5-7)

Wives, children, and slaves (employees?) are being instructed to specifically walk in the way of Jesus in these various relationships. Jesus Himself, knowing who He was in God and that He was returning to the Father, made Himself a servant by washing the feet of His disciples (John 13:3-5). In a similar way, wives, children, and slaves - knowing who they really are in Christ (chosen, holy, loved) - are called to take up the towel and serve. In this they reveal the beautiful nature of Jesus to a watching world. They do not do this because they are intrinsically less than husbands, fathers, and bosses, just as Jesus was not less than His disciples. They do it in obedience to Jesus and out of love for Him and a desire to reveal Him to the world.

So what about the husbands, fathers, bosses? They, too, are challenged. The ones in the supposed position of power are to not abuse this power or use it for their own good. They are to love, to not exasperate, and to be fair. They are to serve by putting the needs of the more vulnerable over their own.