

Colossians: Identity in Christ
Lesson 8 “In Christ in Everyday Life”

I. Review

A. Background - Last week we began studying the book of *Colossians*, which was a letter Paul wrote to the church in Colossae when he was imprisoned in Rome in 62 A.D.

1. Paul did not found this church. It was founded by one of his disciples, Epaphrus (who was from Colossae). He met Paul in the revival in Ephesus (which lasted from 52-55 A.D) and then he moved back to start a church and bring the hope of Jesus to his community.

2. Paul wrote this letter from Rome to strengthen this church and deal with some issues this church was facing. The main issue was **syncretism**, which is the mixing the worship of Jesus Christ with beliefs, values, practices, or worldviews that compete with Him.

a. In that day - legalism, gnosticism, mysticism, folk superstition, angel worship, and asceticism.

b. In our day - consumerism, politics, psychology, self-help, new age, and modern cultural values (ex: marriage) so Christianity is diluted.

c. In *Colossians 2*, Paul showed us we’ve been delivered from shadows—legalism, man-made religion, and everything that pulls us away from Jesus, who is the substance. Then in *Colossians 3:1-17*, Paul teaches us how to live from our new reality in Christ. We’ve been raised with Him and seated with Him, so we are no longer called to live from our flesh or limitations, but from heaven’s reality in us.

B. Tonight, as we continue in *Colossians 3*, we’ll look at how Christ does everyday life in terms of relationships.

II. In Christ in Everyday Life

A. *Colossians 3:18-Colossians 4:1*

1. **Verse 18** One of the secrets to Jesus’s authority on earth was the fact that He was under authority. Ex: **John 5:19** and **26-30 can do nothing of himself.**

a. **Matthew 8:8-10** The centurion had authority because he was a man under authority. **A wife’s authority in marriage comes from yieldedness; what Jesus modeled. Must draw on identity in Christ.**

b. **Ephesians 5:33** A man’s primary need is respect, while a woman’s primary need is love. Ex: How Ashley and I respond differently when the boys disobey.

c. **1 Peter 3:1-6** Ex: ND story

d. A wife should submit in the Lord. This means if the husband is asking the wife to sin, she should not submit.

2. **Verse 19** Men are told to love because a woman's primary need is unconditional love. This must be done from relationship with Christ because none of us can love that way of ourselves.

a. Don't be bitter has the idea of harshness or sharpness. Men often carry pressure, responsibility, unmet expectations, stress, and disappointment internally. If not dealt with in Christ, that pressure can turn into frustration and hardness toward a wife. Bitterness poisons intimacy.

b. **Romans 8:10-11** With men, when we don't deal with the bitter waters in our heart of disappointment, unmet expectations, challenges at work that try to rob us of our identity, we will poison our marriages.

3. **Verse 20** obey - **hupakōuō**, from *G5259* and *G191*; *to hear under (as a subordinate), i.e. to listen attentively; by implication, to heed or conform to a command or authority:—hearken, be obedient to, obey.*

a. The capacity to obey comes from the ability to hear. Faith produces obedience. **Jesus heard and obeyed the Father - John 12:49.** Children are to do the same in the Lord.

b. **Ephesians 6:1-3** That it may be well with you.. Still applies. Has nothing to do with being cursed and everything to do with sowing and reaping.

c. These verses also means parents are in authority over kids and should train children (some modern thought is that kids should be allowed to do what they want and self-actualize). This is nonsense. Parents must raise their kids. They are incapable of raising themselves.

i. Train them who they are in Christ.

ii. Train them what that looks like practically.

4. **Verse 21** It tells us fathers aren't to provoke their children (lest they become discouraged/broken in spirit. Why is this written this way? Fathers tend to do that much more than mothers do. Women have nurturing in their nature. Children have been called to relationship with me, not rules. Compare with **Ephesians 6:4.**

5. **Verses 22-25** tell us how to work in the workplace/volunteer in the community, etc. **We serve as unto the Lord, not unto humanity.**

a. God is our rewarder, not our boss. **Genesis 39:1-6** Joseph worked hard and prospered Potiphar. God prospered him so much, Potiphar trusted him with all he had and made him overseer of his house.

b. Relationship with God - Joseph's response when Potiphar's wife tried to sleep with him. **Genesis 39:8-9.**

c. God continued to prosper him. **Genesis 39:23. Ultimately it was God who promoted Him through Pharaoh. Genesis 41:38-41.**

6. **Verse 1** In this verse Paul turns to masters/employers/leaders and reminds them they are also under authority because they too "have a Master in heaven."

- a. Leaders are not to lead from pride, harshness, or selfish ambition, but remembering they answer to Jesus too.
- b. Great leaders reveal their care for their people and equip them and pay them well (just and fair!
- c. Paul is tearing down worldly thinking. In the Kingdom, whether we lead or follow, own the business or work the job,— we all live under Christ’s authority and are called to reflect His nature in everyday life.

III. Conclusion - shows us that our identity in Christ is meant to affect every part of everyday life —marriage, parenting, work, authority, attitudes, and relationships. Christianity is not just about church services or spiritual moments; it’s Christ in us transforming the way we live Monday through Saturday. As we draw from who we are in Him instead of from our flesh, pressure, wounds, or limitations, heaven’s reality begins flowing into our homes, workplaces, and relationships.

IV. Discussion Questions

1. What was your top takeaway from tonight’s message?
2. How does understanding your identity in Christ change the way you approach marriage, parenting, work, and authority?
3. Why do you think Jesus’s authority flowed out of being under authority, and what does that teach us about humility and submission?
4. In what ways can disappointment, pressure, or unmet expectations poison relationships if we don’t deal with them in Christ? What are some practical ways we can draw on who we are in Christ instead of reacting out of the flesh?
5. What does it practically look like to train children in who they are in Christ instead of just managing behavior with rules?
6. Joseph served faithfully even when nobody noticed and God eventually promoted him. How would your attitude at work, church, or in difficult seasons change if you truly believed God was your rewarder and promoter?

