# Jesus The Messiah: Nothing More, Nothing Less Study 5: Colossians 3:18-4:6 Treating Others Like Jesus Would

## Read Colossians 3:18-4:1

This passage and others like it, are called "household codes". There is information about them at <u>https://sites.google.com/view/66books/topics/new-testament-topics/household-codes</u>

- **1.** Review the context for these instructions in 3:1-17. Write down the relational principles taught as part of the new, resurrection life.
- 2. How do people generally understand submission? Why is it problematic?
- **3.** How have some Christians contributed to people's dislike of the idea of submission?

4. How do the principles you listed in Question 1 affect how we understand submission?

- 5. James 4:7 suggests that resist and submit are opposites? What do you think of the suggestion that resist means "fight against" and, therefore, submit means "work with", that is, resist means saying no and submission means saying yes?
- 6. List occasions when Jesus submitted.

- 7. In this context, does telling wives to submit make sense? Why or why not?
- 8. Are husbands, in v.19, told to do the same, more or less than is required of wives? Explain your answer.

9. If the same principles are applied to children and parents, slaves and their masters, does it all make sense to you? Why or why not?

#### 10. Why does the Bible not, instead, condemn slavery?

N.B. there is material at <u>https://sites.google.com/view/66books/topics/bible-topics/slavery</u>.

11. What would be the practical effect of 4:1?

### **Read Colossians 4:2-6**

12. What does it look like when someone is "devoted to prayer" (4:2)?

a. How does that compare with your current prayer life?

13. Paul asks for prayer for two things in vv.3 and 4. What are they?

14. Describe what being wise towards outsiders (non-Christians) would look like.

15. What does it mean for a conversation to be full of grace? Give some examples.

16. What does it mean for that conversation to also be seasoned with salt?

## For us

17. Of the qualities in 3:12, which is your strongest and which is your weakest?

- a. What is God calling you to do in those areas?
- 18. Looking at the household code (3:18-4:1), is God asking you do to something? What will you do?
- 19. If there is a gap between your current prayer life and being "devoted to prayer" do you want to do anything about that? If so, what will you do?
  - a. Who could support you in that?
- 20. Paul needed God-given opportunities for the gospel and the ability to proclaim it clearly. In terms of evangelism, what do you need?
- 21. Do your conversations with non-Christians tend to be too gracious or too salty? How can you achieve that biblical balance?

22. Pray about any and all of these things. If you are in a group, pray for each other.