**RISE UP** in 2021

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***ALL WE NEED***

A Study in the Book of Colossians

***On The Homefront***

Colossians 3:18-4:1



Paul now gives us very practical direction in living out Colossians 3:12–17 by giving us some **instructions for our homes** … or households.

**What rules do you have in your house?**

**Homefront** – a term used to describe how a civilian population support at home what is happening abroad.

**Oikos** – your whole household, the sphere of influence one has through family responsibility, relationships and possessions.

**Household Codes** – rules for relating to each other in relation to gender, age, position and power.

**Haustafel** - Literally, it means "house table" or a list of rules for family life. It explains what one's conduct should be as a member of any household. This household could be the state, work, church, or family.

Ancient Rome was a man’s world. In politics, society and the family, men held both the power and the purse-strings – they even decided whether a baby would live or die. **In the ancient world, the lowest positions were reserved for women, children and slaves.**

*And now that it is clear what are the component parts of the state, we have first of all to discuss household management; for every state is composed of households. Household management falls into departments corresponding to the parts of which the household in its turn is composed . . . master and slave, husband and wife, father and children.* Aristotle 336 B.C.

The logic that followed was simple – a well ordered state was comprised of **well-ordered households** in which the **primary virtue** of those under authority was to **submit to that authority**. Therefore, the instructions to husbands and wives, fathers and children, and masters and slaves like those found in Colossians created **the framework for a household code** of conduct that was often the topic of philosophers as the ethical teachers of the ancient Greco-Roman world.

**How we treat others** says a great deal about what we know and believe about **how God has treated us**.

* Faith **filters** down to family and friends.
* The **impact** of your life in Christ is felt most by those in **proximity** to your home.
* How is your faith in Christ **changing** the way you live on the Homefront?
* What happens on the **Homefront** impacts what happens in the **world**.

**How are things in your home?** Hectic, peaceful, loving, loud, hostile, angry, abusive –the place where Paul’s teachings gets lived out is in the home. **How is life for you on the Homefront?**

**Remember this:** Where you **live** is where you live out your **faith**.

**ON THE HOMEFRONT**

**Three principles that will transform your Homefront:**

It is not about power, position or privilege … it is about **love**.

***Wives****,* ***submit*** *to your husbands, as is* ***fitting in the Lord.******Husbands****,* ***love*** *your wives, and do not be harsh with them.* Colossians 3:18-19

*… submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.* ***Wives****, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as* ***Christ is the head of the church****, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.* Ephesians 5:21–24

***Husbands, love your wives****,* ***as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her****, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way* ***husbands should love their wives as their own bodies****. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but* ***nourishes and cherishes*** *it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.* Ephesians 5:25-30

In the world’s eyes, marriage was **transactional**.

In God’s eyes, marriage is **transformational**.

*“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and* ***the two shall become one flesh****.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However,* ***let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband****.* Ephesians 5:31-33

Put Christ first in your **marriage**.

* It is not about **culture**; it is about Christ.
* It is not about who is in **charge**; it is about who is **glorified**.
* It is not about who is **first**; it is about how I can **serve**.

Our **example** is Jesus’ love for us.

Children are our **future**, so invest in them in the **present**.

Parents need to see themselves as **teachers**, **coaches**, and **mentors** for their children.

Let me say this to every child ... obedience is the portal to learning. Whether it is obeying parents, teachers, instructions from school or instructions from the Bible. **Obedience is key!**

***Children****, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.* Colossians 3:20

***Children****, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”* Ephesians 6:1-3

Parenting is not **easy** … that is why you are the **adult**.

**Fathers**, *do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.* Colossians 3:21

***Fathers****, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.* Ephesians 6:4

Put Christ first in your **family** relationships.

Your work **matters** to God because God is at **work** through you.

We are called to **produce** in order to **contribute**.

***Bondservants****, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with* ***sincerity of heart****, fearing the Lord.* ***Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,*** *knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward.* ***You are serving the Lord Christ.*** *For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.* ***Masters****, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.* Colossians 3:22-4:1

Your work is a **reflection** of your **affection**.

Put Christ first in your **work**.

***Bondservants****, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of* ***eye-service****, as* ***people-pleasers****, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.* ***Masters****, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.* Ephesians 6:5-9

Maybe you have seen signs like these that say …

**In this house, we believe …**

For many this has become a cultural house code, a Haustafel for how a home is believing and behaving to support a larger mission in the world.

**In this house, we believe …**

God is the creator of life and all lives matter to Him.

We live in a fallen world and all have sinned.

Believing in Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

God’s Truth will set you free.

Develop your own Haustafel – household code.

**Three Action Steps**

How does our Homefront support and reflect the values and mission God in the world?

How does our treatment of others on the Homefront, reflect or not reflect how God has treated us?

Write your own set of rules, your own Haustafel or house code, with a supporting scripture next to each rule.

**Examples**

**In this house, we believe …**

* All **life** is **sacred.**
* **Sin** is sin and **confession** is needed.
* **Jesus** is our **Savior.**
* The **truth** of God has set us **free.**
* We are all **equal** before God.
* **God** is the **Creator** and His **Creation** is beautiful.
* **God** is **love** and how you **love** **others** **matters**.

Or … In this house

* Before we **pray** … we **Believe**.
* Before we **speak** … we **Listen**.
* Before we **spend** … we **Earn**.
* Before we **write** … we **Think**.
* Before we **quit** … we **Try**.
* Before we **die** … we **Live**.

**Come to the Altar**

**Take time this morning to pray as a family**, as a husband, a wife, a parent, an employee or employer – confess where your Homefront is broken and need of healing. Confess where you have hurt others, lorded over and lacked love. Confess, repent, and surrender your family, your relationships, your home, your household, your Homefront to the Lord ... and receive forgiveness, grace, power, purpose, zeal and love for all that God wants to do in and through your family.