

Paul's Letter to the

Colossians



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What do you think?

- Why did Paul write *Colossians*?
- What does *Colossians* teach us?
 - What errors does it address?
 - What truths does it promote?



What do you think?

- Should Christians worship angels?
 - How do you know?
- If you know a Christian who is worshipping angels, what is the loving thing to do?
 - Encourage him to continue
 - Ignore what he's doing
 - Encourage him to stop it and worship God



What do you think?



- What if this Christian says worshipping angels makes him feel closer to God?
- What if this Christian says worshipping angels cured him of cancer?

Our Dilemma

- WBC is very diverse
- WBC is Bible-Based
- How do we handle Biblical truth?
 - Avoid certain topics?
 - Every opinion is equally true?
 - Go somewhere else?
 - Talk / wrestle thru it together?



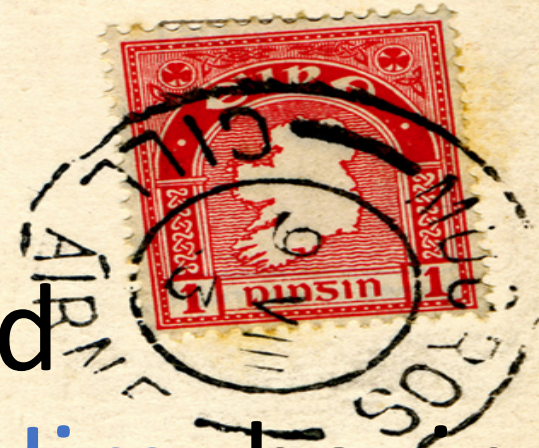
Colossians 1:9-10

“...we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects...”



Colossians 2:6-7

“...Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in Him**, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude....”



The Apostle Paul's Instructions



- How do we please the Lord?
- What does *walking worthy* look like in real-life relationships?
 - *Set your minds on things above (3:1-2)* affects how we live here and now
- Live holy

The Apostle Paul's Instructions

1. Wives and Husbands (3:18-19)
2. Children and Parents (3:20-21)
3. Slaves and Masters (3:22-4:1)



Wives and Husbands (3:18-19)



- Marriage

- Instituted by God (Gen. 1-2; Matt. 19:4-6)
- The basis for all human society
- Should be honored (Heb. 13:4)
- Under attack (cf. 1 Tim. 4:1-3)

Wives and Husbands (3:18-19)



- Marriage

- The most intimate relationship two human beings can have

- Plays a huge role in sanctification

- How do wives and husbands live out 3:12-14? Why should they?

Wives and Husbands (3:18-19)



- Wives (18)

- Be subject to your husbands

- *Place yourself under in an orderly fashion*

- FUNCTION/POSITION, NOT VALUE

- Based on created order (1 Cor. 11:7-12; 1 Tim. 2:13-14)

Wives and Husbands (3:18-19)



- Wives (18)

- As is fitting in the Lord

- *this is the right thing for Christ-followers to do*

- As the Church to Christ (Eph. 5:22-24)

- NOT: “Wives, be subject to your husbands *if* your husbands are loving.”

Wives and Husbands (3:18-19)



- Husbands (19)

1. Love your wives

- Agape – *love of the will*
- As Christ loves the Church (Eph. 5:25)
- Holy, pure, safe, comforting, selfless, sacrificial, nourishing, redemptive

1 Cor. 13:4-7

“Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”



Wives and Husbands (3:18-19)



- Husbands (19)

2. Do not be embittered against them

- *Sour, acrid* – harsh, malicious, abusive
- Wives are people, too! (Col. 3:12-14)
- NOT: “Husbands, love your wives *if* your wives are submissive.”

Children and Parents (3:20-21)

- Children (20)

- Be obedient – *hear under*, i.e. – *listen to those in authority and do what they say*

- Parental duty (Deut. 6:1-9; Prov. 1:8-9; Heb. 12:4-13)

- In all things – all aspects of life



Children and Parents (3:20-21)

- Children (20)

- For this is well-pleasing [in] the Lord

- This is the goal (Col. 1:9-10)

- Parents who do not encourage this are hurting their children (cf. Eph. 6:1-4)



Children and Parents (3:20-21)

- Fathers [Parents] (21)

- Do not *exasperate* your children

- Irritate, frustrate, drive to despair

- Hounding, belittling, inconsistency

- So that they will not *lose heart*

- *Without passion* – morose, reckless



Children and Parents (3:20-21)

- Fathers [Parents] (21)
 - Instead *nourish* them (Eph. 6:4)
 - Discipline and instruction of the Lord
 - *Training* and *admonishing*
 - Attitudes and behavior
 - See the Book of Proverbs



Slaves and Masters (3:22-4:1)



- Slaves (22-25)

- These principles apply to anyone under authority

- Be obedient – *hear under, i.e. – listen to those in authority and do what they say*

- All things – even the things you don't like

Slaves and Masters (3:22-4:1)

- Slaves (22-25)

- Be obedient

- Not for show – just to please the boss
 - But with sincerity out of reverence for Christ, since you serve Him (23-24)
 - Choices have consequences (24a, 25)



Slaves and Masters (3:22-4:1)

- Masters (4:1)

- These principles apply to all in authority over someone else

- Treat them justly and fairly

- Even-handed, lovingly (3:12-14)

- You, too, are accountable (3:25)



So What?

- Will I commit to pleasing God:
 - By how I love/respect my spouse?
 - By how I obey authority?
 - By how I serve those under my authority?
- Am I willing to wrestle in community?
(2:2-3)

