**Should Being in Christ Affect How You Live Each Day?**

**Introduction:**

Paul’s letter to the Colossians stressed that Jesus us all that one needs. He’s all-sufficient for our needs. Our text today emphasizes that this sufficiency should affect every area of a Christian’s life.

**Text:** Colossians 3:18-25 – 4:1

**Body:**

1. **Spouses**  Colossians 3:18-19 “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.” NKJV

* Wives are to “submit” to their husbands. This word in Greek means to subordinate, to arrange under, to subject oneself to another, to yield to another.
* This is not an option, but an obligation. Note Ephesians 5:22-24 “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.” NKJV
* “as is fitting” – what is due, one’s duty Submission is part of every Christian’s life. (Ephesians 5:21) “submitting to one another in the fear of God.” NKJV
* Wives’ submission to their husbands may help their unbelieving husbands obey the gospel. (I Peter 3:1-2, 5) “Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,” NKJV
* Husbands are to love their wives, a sacrificial love, as Christ loved the church. (Ephesians 5:25, 28-29) “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 28-29 So husbands ought to love their own 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 the Lord does the church.” NKJV
* Husbands must cherish and nourish, care for and show a tender love for their wives. There must be no harshness or bitterness. Be worthy of love and honor; they are heirs together of the grace of life. So husbands are to insure their wives are well-protected and well cared for all the while showing both affection and devotion.

1. **Parents and Children** Colossians 3:20-21 “Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.” NKJV

* Children Obedience is well-pleasing. Jesus set an example. (Luke 2:51-52) “Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” NKJV This verse contains a promise. (Ephesians 6:1-3) “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with promise: ‘that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.’ ” NKJV (Exodus 20:12) “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.” NKJV
* Disobedience came with serious consequences. (Exodus 21:15, 17) “And he who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. 17 And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.” NKJV (Deuteronomy 21:18-21) “If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. And they shall say to the elders of his city, ‘This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice, he is a glutton and a drunkard.’ Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.” NKJV
* Fathers are to be firm, yet fair. They have responsibility to train, discipline, and teach their children. (Ephesians 6:4) “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” NKJV Fathers must not be domineering or thoughtless. This verse protects children from unjust and severe treatment. Discipline is to be administered to correct behavior, not as a way to vent anger.

(Proverbs 23:13-14) “Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.” NKJV

1. **Servants and Masters**  Colossians 3:22-25 – 4:1 “Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality. 4:1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.” NKJV

* Servants would apply to employees today. We must obey our employers in everything, the exception being things illegal or unethical.
* “Not with eyeservice” We must not just work while the boss is around. “People pleaser” We should not act just to please men or to court favor of others. Employees should rather be sincere in their work, not hypocritical or self-seeking.
* Employees should work with reverence and respect for God and put their heart into their work. Our aim is to please God for we are ultimately working for Him. Our reward will come from Him. (Ephesians 6:5-8) “Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. NKJV We will be repaid based upon our work and service. (II Corinthians 5:10) “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” NKJV
* Masters: Employers, managers, supervisors are to be just, rendering to those under them their due. They are to be fair, doing what is right and equitable, showing no partiality. (Ephesians 6:9) “And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.” NKJV There are to be no threats or abuses. Practice the Golden Rule.
* Even masters have a Master in heaven! If you want Him to be fair and just with you, then you must be fair and just with others.

**Conclusion:**

Being in Christ should affect every area of our lives: marriage, family, business. This allows us to show others what “Christ living within us” really means.

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