

TITLE: Colossians (Lesson 16)

TEXT: Col. 3:20-4:1

INTRO: “Where there are sacrifice and submission in an atmosphere of love, you will find a happy home...If we live to please Christ first, others second, and ourselves last, we will build strong marriages and spiritual homes.”  
*Warren Wiersbe*

III. (vs. 20) Instruction to Children

NOTE: Obedience “is a fundamental building block of the home and, indeed, of all life. Whether there are Christians in that home or not, obedience is what makes a family work.” *David Jeremiah* The parallel passage is found in Eph. 6:1-3.

A. Obedience is a principle of morality and righteousness.

NOTE: “well pleasing unto the Lord” and “for this is right”

B. Obedience is a precept of Scripture.

NOTE: Eph. 6:2; Ex. 20:12

C. Obedience provides protection.

NOTE: Eph. 6:3

D. Obedience leads to discipline which generally leads to a healthier life.

IV. (vs. 21) Instruction to Parents

NOTE: Eph. 6:4; Prov. 22:6

A. Don't *provoke* (irritate) your children to the point of discouragement.

B. Rather *nurture* (train) and *admonish* (exhort) them in the Lord.

NOTE: “For the most part, children do not *create* problems; they *reveal* them.” *Wiersbe*

V. (vs. 22-25) Instruction to Employees

NOTE: Paul is not endorsing or promoting slavery. Many slaves were believers.

A. How an employee *acts* in the workplace should be a witness for Christ.

NOTE: Titus 2:9-10; I Pet. 2:18-20

B. How an employee *thinks* in the workplace determines how he works.

NOTE: I Tim. 6:1-2; Col. 3:17

C. An employee's *attitude* will reflect in his work “as to the Lord”.

D. An employee's *reward* will come from the One he serves which is Christ.

VI. (Col. 4:1) Instruction to Employers

NOTE: Paul's counsel to employers is to have *humility*!

A. Respect your employees.

1. Treat them justly and fairly.

B. Remember that you also have a “Master in heaven.”

1. Any authority we have comes from God.

2. God cares for both the employee and the employer the same.

CONCLUSION: Christ “wants me to mirror Him in every relationship I have down here. What a glorious calling you and I have! Doesn't that give you enthusiasm today?”

*J. Vernon McGee*