How Jesus Restores Paradise on Earth August 28, 2022

*Colossians 3:17-4:1 Series: Jesus: Underestimated*

How could any man finish reading this imagining that he is the lord of his little domestic empire? Christ alone holds ultimate authority over his home. – Mark Meynell

Intro: Is Larry King an outlier?

1. Jesus undoes the patriarchy
2. Christianity lifts up what the world tears down

Household codes were addressed to the male head of the house. Here, wives, children, and servants are all addressed first and husbands second.

1. The world seems to reject authority; Jesus transforms it

v. 18 *Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

Clint Arnold: Paul is not admonishing these believers to conform to the prevailing cultural patterns, but rather to evaluate everything they do in light of the teaching about Jesus and the pattern he left for his people to emulate.

Matthew 26:39 *And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”*

v. 19 *Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh*

Ephesians 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*

* How does Jesus’ example of submission change how you think about it? How does His example of love redefine it?
* How do you know that these commands are still relevant today?

1. Jesus undoes the anarchy
2. Children please God in obedience not self-expression

v. 20 *Children, obey your parents in everything …*

v. 20 *for this pleases the Lord*

Exodus 20:12 *Honor your father and your mother …*

Ephesians 6:1-3 *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.”*

1. Parents please God in treating their children the way He does

v. 21 *Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

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

* Why are young children’s obedience and adult children’s honour toward their parents so important to God and foundational to their well-being?
* How does it change how we approach parenting if we believe that a child’s obedience is crucial to their well-being?
* What can parents do to avoid discouraging and angering their children even while they seek the obedience of children who don’t naturally want to obey?

1. Jesus undoes the tyranny
2. The New Testament undermines slavery and shows how to cope with it without abolishing it

1 Corinthians 7:21 *Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.)*

1 Timothy 1:10 *enslavers … and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine*

1. Following Jesus means treating your boss like Jesus’ foreman

v. 22 *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*

v. 23 *work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men*

v. 24 *You are serving the Lord Christ.*

v. 24 *you will receive the inheritance as your reward*

v. 25 *the wrongdoer will be paid back*

1. Following Jesus means treating your employees with the knowledge that you answer to God

v. 1 *Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly …*

v. 1 *knowing that you also have a Master in heaven*

Ephesians 6:9 *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.*

* How does the New Testament seek to undermine slavery?
* What does it mean that “you are serving the Lord Christ” in your work? How should that change your attitude?
* What does it mean that you’ll answer to God for the way you’ve treated your employees?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Colossians 4:2-6

Notes