**Colossians 3: 18 – 25**

Non-Christian household codes at the time had basis of pater familias

* Men not told how to act toward slaves, women, children, etc.
* Men assumed absolute authority
* Christian household codes found in Colossians, Ephesians, Titus, and 1 Peter starkly contrast this with direction for men
  + Requires new spirit of reflection and action

34% of Colossians is found in Ephesians, and 100% of these verses are a parallel.

50/50 split in scholar opinion as to if Colossians was written by Paul or falsely attributed to Paul.

80% of scholars believe Ephesians was not written by Paul

Ephesians written after Colossians (an expansion, and thought to be by someone else)

Paper by Dr. Ronald Troxel (Professor at Wisconsin) (M.Div Bethel Theological Seminary-Baptist):

“Drawing on MacDonald, Barow and Crossan and Reed, it is most likely that the household code of Colossians 3.18 is designed to help transform Gentile households into Christian households… Paul is laying out a 3 social structure where women aren’t subjugated in the home, but rather choose to love and serve their husbands voluntarily. The husbands in turn choose to love and serve their wives. Colossians 3.18-4.1 is likely a pragmatic household code, written to keep peace and assimilate diverse peoples.”

**18**

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

* Ephesians 5:22-24
* 1 Peter 3:1-6
* Titus 2:3-5
  + Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine, They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled
* Phillipians 2:6
* “When Paul talks about wives and women, he often uses the term hupotasso. Barow argues that hupotasso was used in an instructing manner, not in a description of wives. Paul uses hupotasso in the middle voice in Greek so it becomes hupotassomai. English has a passive and active voice (I teach and I was taught) but Greek has a middle voice as well. Barow uses what I think is a very easy analogy to understand in order to demonstrate the middle voice. “A person may teach (an active verb) and one may be taught (a passive verb), but a person may also teach himself or herself by careful listening, discovering, reasoning and learning. In that sense, the person is both subject and object of the action. That is what the Greek middle voice expresses: a voluntary action by the subject of the verb upon the subject of the verb” (Barow, 1988, 40). By using the middle voice, this means that wives voluntarily and willingly submit themselves to subordination to their husbands. They are not forced to. Barow says that "be subject to” is an awkward translation of hupotassomai at best. “Hupotassomai means something like ‘give allegiance to,’ ‘tend to the needs of,’ or ‘be supportive of’” (Barow, 1988, 41).”

**19**

Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

* Ephesians 5:25-30
* 1 Peter 3:7
  + Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.
* Titus 2:2, 2:6-8
  + Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness
  + Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot by condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

**20**

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord

* Ephesians 6:1-3

**21**

Fathers, do not provoke your children, less they become discouraged

* Ephesians 6:4

**22**

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.

* Ephesians 6:5-6
* Titus 2: 9-10

**23**

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

* Ephesians 6:7

**24**

Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ

* Ephesians 6:8

**25**

For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

* Ephesians 6:9