

FOLLOWING JESUS: SUBVERTING THE

EMPIRE

STUDY GUIDE

At Home and at Work

Colossians 3:17 - 4:1

WELCOME & SHARING

Share any announcements...

- Floral Ave gets nearly 1,000 trick-or-treaters every year. If you want to help hand out candy and generally be hospitable to our neighborhood, join us **Halloween night** from **6-8pm** on the church steps. Contact Donna Self or Jacquelyn Stevens on The City if you have questions.
- **Give & Take FREE Sale** - Saturday Nov 5, 9-11am. Declutter and GIVE away outgrown women and children's clothes, toys, shoes, accessories, etc and BLESS others in the community. Please donate the above items before 11/4 outside the boiler room in the lower level, labeled according to size. All are invited (and invite friends), whether you have given or not. Everything is FREE.
- **Member's Meeting** - Monday Nov 7, 6:30-7:30pm. Come out to hear to sing and give thanks, hear our annual report from last year, get a look ahead, and elect new officers. Make sure and sign up online for childcare.

OPENER QUESTION

What is the worst job you've ever had?

STUDY/DISCUSSION

We are journeying through the Apostle Paul's letter to the Colossian church in September and October. This week we're studying Colossians 3:17 - 4:1.

Chapter 1 of Colossians has given us a beautiful picture of the person and work of Jesus Christ. Chapter 2 urges us to follow him as our one true King. The first part of chapter 3 is about our life as the church gathered together. The passage we're studying today talks about what it means to follow Christ when the church is NOT together... when we're at home or at work.

Read: Colossians 3:17-4:1

1. How is verse 17 a fitting introduction to this whole passage?
2. Walk through the passage together. What is asked of each member of society? Which parts of this are most compelling? Which are the most difficult to understand or accept?
3. How does verse 19 make it safe to practice verse 18?
4. Knowing what you know about the ancient world, how does Christianity uniquely value children?
5. What does Paul urge people to do with power and privilege?
6. What encouragement would bondservants have received from 3:22-4:1? (Remember, as much as 1/3 of Christians in the Roman empire would have been in this role)
7. How does this passage point us to Jesus Christ?
8. What is one thing you want to take away from this passage or our discussion?

NEIGHBORING EXPERIMENT OF THE MONTH: Try to meet one neighbor you don't know yet and learn something about them. (If you've met and talked about this, give a report...have you met a neighbor you didn't know before?)

PRAYER

As you get to know each other as a group, it's good to keep the prayer time a little lighter and help set the tone of how you'd like the prayer time to be as everyone is just getting to know each other. You can close in prayer, ask a few folks to pray, or break into smaller groups. Try using "conversational prayer" where folks pray briefly in a sentence or two (not "prayer speeches"), with normal words (no thees and thous), and can pray more than once (no "one and done" rule). Basically, pray to God like you're talking with one another.

What should we pray about? The most natural thing is to ask for personal requests if folks are willing to share, though in these first few weeks, people may be somewhat hesitant. Instead, you can pray in response to the passage, or simply focus your prayers on the growth and development of your community group.

LEADER'S NOTES

Paul continues the exposition and application that he began in the previous section: Because our relationship with God has changed through Christ, our relationships with those around us must change for Christ.

Having spoken in general about our servanthood, Paul now focuses particular attention on how such service to Christ affects those relationships closest to us—in our homes and work. Note first how many times Paul reminds his readers that in each of these relationships “the Lord” is present. They must now treat others with a new perspective—one that includes the Lord Jesus’ grace and righteousness. Then, since they have experienced the grace of Christ, Paul calls on them to be gracious to one another: wives submit fittingly (cf. Eph. 5:22–24), husbands love sacrificially (cf. Eph. 5:25–32), children obey rightly (cf. Eph. 6:1–3), parents discipline unprovokingly (cf. Eph. 6:4), workers work diligently (cf. Eph. 6:5–8), and bosses act justly (cf. Eph. 6:9). This is the beauty of the life into which the gospel of grace calls us.