



Colossians: Week 8 – Gospel Relationships

The gospel empowers us to live a joyful, peaceful, and fruitful life. Nowhere is this more important than where we live and where we work. Considering that the majority of our week is spent in these two places, it's crucial that we understand our role and how we relate to others in light of our gospel identity. If we can get this right, home and work will be a place of peace and purpose rather than chaos and frustration.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read **Colossians 3:15-4:1**
2. The word “rule” in **3:15** is an athletic term that means “judge” or “referee.” Peace is the referee in our heart. How can you personally relate to the concept of peace acting as an umpire in your heart? Share a specific experience where you felt peace guiding your actions.
3. **3:17** is really a rule for the Christian life. How does, or how should, this perspective impact the way we approach our daily tasks, interactions, and decisions?
4. In **3:18-21**, Paul lays the concept of “whatever you do” over top of family relationships. What do you find challenging about Paul’s instructions? What do you find freeing? Where do you think the growth opportunities are for you in this way of operating as a family?
5. In **3:22-4:1**, he transitions to the slave/master relationship. The institution of slavery was woven into the fabric of the Roman Empire. If slaves and masters lived out Paul’s instruction, how do you think they would begin to view one another and what do you think that might have eventually led to? In our context, what does this say about the way we are to work and/or manage employees? How would that change your work environment?
6. This entire section is ultimately about loving others as an act of loving Jesus. As you close, have each group member identify the roles they have (Ex. husband–father–employee), and one action they can take in each role this week to demonstrate love.