MESSAGE OUTLINE



Colossians 3:18-4:1 NKJV

8 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. 20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. 22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality. 4:1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

INTRODUCTION

What does it mean to flourish, and how can you experience it in your life?

In ch.3, Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, will address the home.

And this narrowed audience can also teach about both Paul's purpose and the Word's purpose.

The Birth of a Nation

How would you build a new nation? In other words, where would you start to disciple it?

If you wanted it to have a society that was going to flourish—where would you start?

See, Paul is an ambassador sharing the values and culture of the New Kingdom of God.

Paul is not just about the church but also our homes, to be recreated through the power of the gospel.

How is that supposed to work? How can our homes be recreated by the power of the gospel?

The Wrong Idea: Everyman For Himself

The "everyman" is a term that is a perspective the audience has in stories and movies. When the audience inserts themselves into the story and sees themselves as the main character.

This technique is often reinforced by the makers of video games, comics, novels, and movies.

It has been reinforced over and over again. And this is how the entertainment industry today works… and now how our brains work as we partake in the story.

But it can also be a problem if we do this for the historical "characters" of the Bible.

It is important we let God be God, Jesus be Jesus, and people be sinners.

I AM WHAT I AM

So who are we? *The Bible says, …you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.* **1 Corinthians 6:11b (CSB)**

You are now filled with His Spirit, and He dwells within you. (1 Corinthians 3:16)

Luke 17:20-21: Jesus says, "*The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."*

The Kingdom is within us, it shouldn't just stay there.. It needs to go beyond you.

When God's people live in the Spirit, then His Kingdom and His culture is among you.

You will not flourish in Christ, unless you live in the culture and Spirit of Christ.

Colossians 3:16, Paul says, *'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...'*

Ephesians 5's code parallels Colossians 3's code. **Ephesians 5:18** says, *'Be filled with the Spirit.'*

Yet *how* are we to live in this way? The only way to flourish is if you live in the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:20 - *...always give thanks for all things*
Hebrews 13:15 - *...Continually offer... praise to God*
Philippians 4:4 - *Rejoice in the Lord always.*
1 Thessalonians 5:16 - *Rejoice at all times.*
2 Corinthians 6:10 - *...sorrowful, yet always rejoicing*

That is how a disciple of Christ is to live.

1 Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! 2 Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. 3 Know that the Lord, ***He is God;*** *It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;* ***We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.*** *4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. 5 For the Lord is good; His mercy [or love] is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.* **Psalm 100**

Who is the Lord, and who are we, and who is He to us? His people, **His** worshippers, **His** sheep.

Let God **be your God,** and worship Him! Do you live in the Spirit and worship the Lord all times?

Now Jesus said, we will not just to be filled, but also be overflowing.

Do you find yourself worshipping the Lord, even at home?

Living in the Spirit happens when worship flourishes, and then into Christlikeness.

And Culture in the home overflows out into the world around them—**from the inside out.**

THE HOUSEHOLD CODE
Paul wanted the servants to serve their masters as we serve Christ. Masters who do well, reflecting on how they too have a Master in heaven.

Both working for God. We too should always be in submission towards God.

Wives are instructed to submit to their husbands. The Greek word is a 'helper' role. This allows who to be the head of the church? **Jesus.** As the husband is also called to submit, but to Christ the King.

The wife is to keep Christ as the authority in the family and help maintain their household.

The wife's submission to her husband, and his to the Lord, teaches the kids to do likewise.

The husband is to love his wife. True love, according to Jesus, is sacrificial.

Help him to worship the Lord. In fact, this is how the Spirit, the Helper, also helps us.

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. **Romans 8:26**

Wives, do help him like that?

Husbands, do you love your wives and see her as more important than yourself and needs?
Philippians 2:3b-4, *esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

Husbands, do you love her like that?

Do you help or prevent your children from having a relationship with Jesus Christ?

The Key: rejoice in your home together, no matter what is happening.

So that your children can see the right motivation of obedience: worship.

CONCLUSION
Following code isn't worship. Following rules isn't worship.

It is not that you do everything perfectly. But there is a right approach: **Godly love.** Because the culture of the family should be the culture of their King. **God is love.**

The Bible is to be the manual for your life, but the Bible needs to be understood holistically.

In short, what do you think God was trying to say to us? Does it dwell within you?

Children need to learn and be given grace to see and learn the culture of the Kingdom of God.

Now being a person with authority doesn't mean you get to play God. God is not the everyman for you to play! It is the exact opposite. **Only He is God!**

True worship in the Spirit is when Jesus gets to play YOU, loving and submitting to each other.

This only happens when your main concern isn't about who is submitting themselves to you; or who is following the rules or not. It is when your **main concern** is how you are submitting to the Lord in worshipping Him by loving the people in your life, as a sacrifice to God.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. **Ephesians 2:10**

Jesus is to be the central focus of worship and the King of your home. When that happens, then you will flourish. And we will all be filled and overflowing.

INVITATION
Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Then you will be filled and overflowing, and have everlasting life. You will know the Father's love, and you will be able to love as He has loved you.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **(John 3:16)**

Jesse Mark Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
January 25 & 26, 2025

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