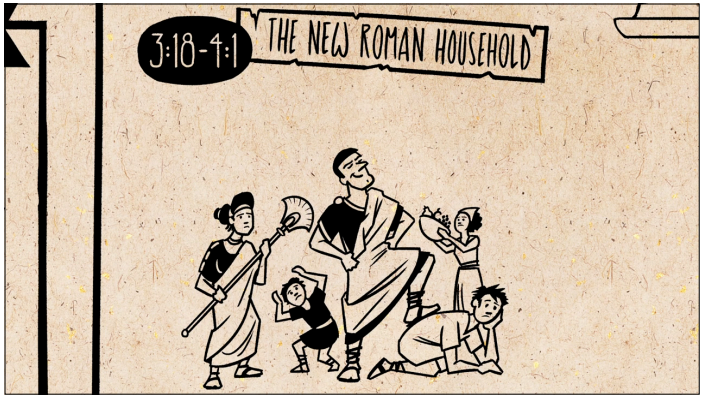
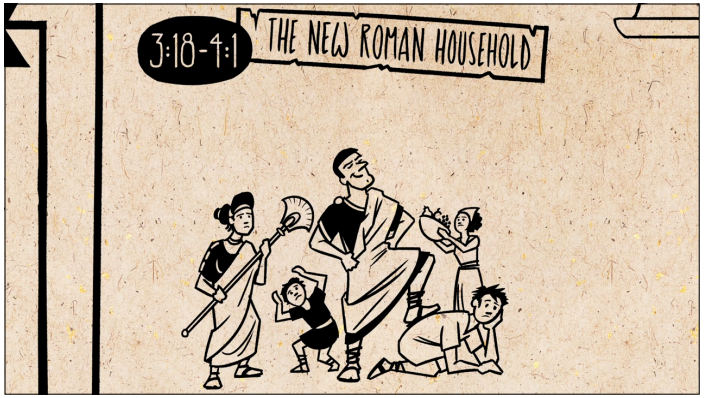
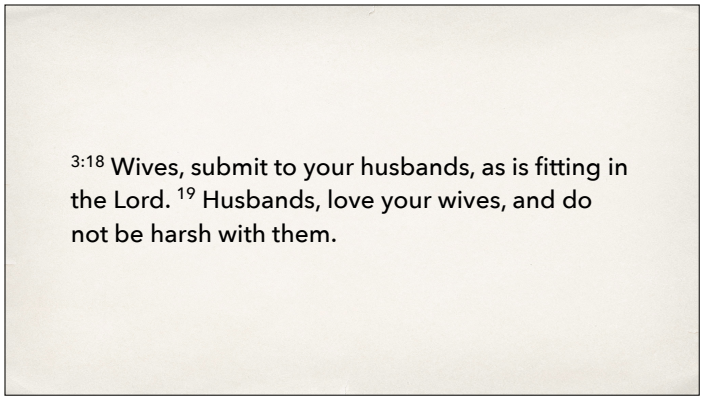
COLOSSIANS
3:18-4:1


3:18-4:1
THE NEW ROMAN HOUSEHOLD


3:18-4:1
THE NEW ROMAN HOUSEHOLD

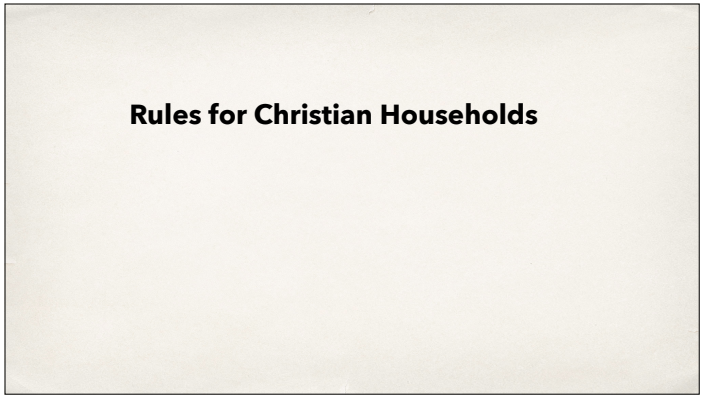


I know that for many of you in the congregation, you are not married, you're not dating, and there are no plans for marriage or for dating. but before you quite so quickly open up your phone to distract yourself, what God is teaching us from this passage, will relate to any relationship that you're in. And the totality of this passage reflects the challenges we all face in all the relationships that we engage in.

Secondly, as we begin looking at this today, I want you to know, if you are in a relationship of physical abuse, or fear, that is not a situation in which you can make clear and rational decisions. If that's the situation you or someone that you know are in, it takes a lot of courage but you need to let someone know.

And so, let's pray and have a look at this passage today.

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. 22 Slaves, 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. 23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. 25 For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.4:1 Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.



What living Christ looks like
Christ-Living in your family
Jesus changes how you treat those around you

Not centred on What you do
but who are now.

There's this powerful realisation that Paul keeps reminding us of — we have been saved by the Almighty, the one from the beginning, this Jesus who has no comparison, we have a life in him, we have a **meaning** and a **being** in him. That reality, is something we forget too often. And if we forget that reality, we will find ourselves caught in-between worlds, "trying to do good," whilst constantly feeling as if we are losing. When in reality the reminder is so that we can grasp hold of the victory given to us by Christ, to say, we press on, because we are NOT defeated. So we continue to live in the love of Christ, because Christ himself is victorious.

Rules for Christian Households

~~Rules for Christian Households~~
What living Christ looks like

~~Rules for Christian Households~~

What living Christ looks like

Christ-Living in your family

~~Rules for Christian Households~~

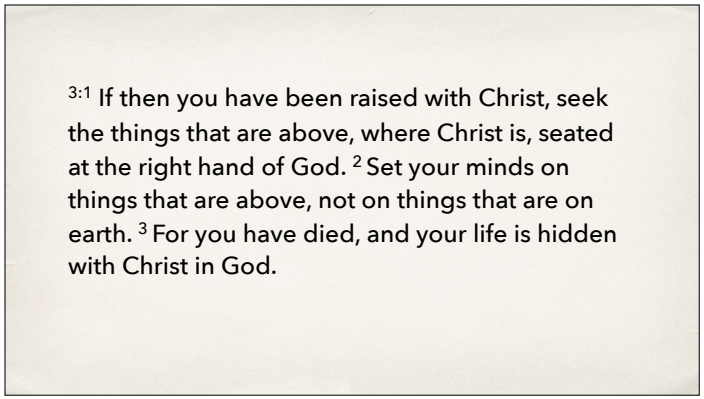
What living Christ looks like

Christ-Living in your family

Jesus changes how you treat those around you

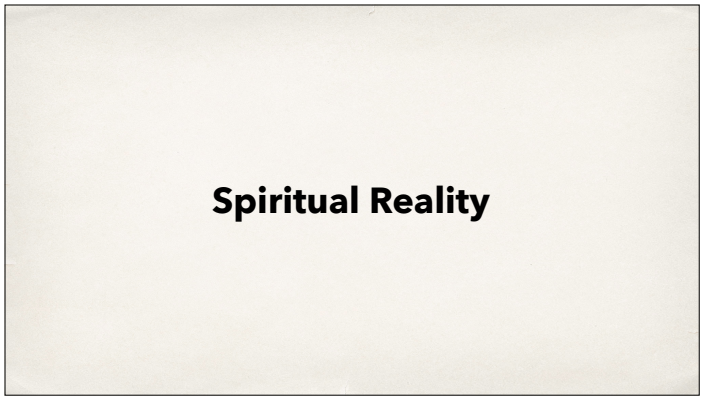
Not centred on
“What you do”
But
“Who you are now”

around you



And so when we are thinking about husbands and wives, and the relationships that we are in (romantic or platonic) we come back to the beginning of this chapter — which Paul says — IF you have been raised with Christ, not questioning whether you have, but reminding us, rather — hey YOU you have been raised with Christ, therefore, Set your minds on things above.

3:1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.



The first point is thus:
There is a spiritual reality about relationships — in our relationship with God, and how that affects our relationships with one another. And we are reminded to be ever aware of that.

There's this powerful realisation that Paul keeps reminding us of — we have been saved by the Almighty, the one from the beginning, this Jesus who has no comparison, we have a life in him, we have a **meaning** and a **being** in him.
That reality, is something we forget too often. And if we forget that reality, we will find ourselves caught in-between worlds, "trying to do good," whilst constantly feeling as if we are losing. When in reality the reminder is so that we can grasp hold of the victory given to us by Christ, to say, we press on, because we are NOT defeated. So we continue to live in the love of Christ, because Christ himself is victorious.

We are at war with our sinful nature, but no longer bound by it.

So when husbands and wives are called to submit and love one another it is a reminder that we are built

[12] Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, **compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, [13] bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive**. [14] And above all these **put on love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. [15] And let the **peace of Christ rule in your hearts**, to which indeed you were called in one body. And **be thankful**.

Put on, not as in, pretend. but rather, clothes yourself.

There's this image of, here, you are wearing this — it's now defines who you are. you're not in the rags of bitterness, or envy, or selfishness, but rather, you're wearing this holiness of God.

6. Compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, bearing with one another, one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other

6. how does a couple demonstrate Christ?

7. Remembering who you are — holy and beloved — your identity is not found in fighting for a point, or somehow if you win this battle, that's going to prove your point.

8. The art of listening. Hearing the other side.

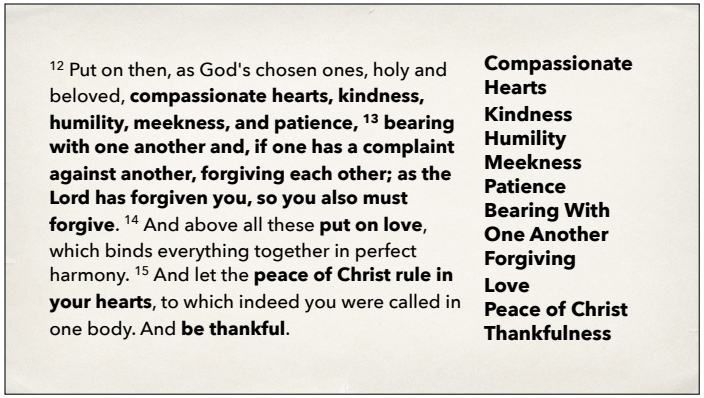
9. Desire the good of the other person.

10. Forgive one another — especially when you have a complaint against them

11. Humility — I could do so much better than you. That prideful thought is the opposite of Christ. Imagine if Jesus just said, I could do better than you. Of course he could, but he doesn't have that attitude.

12. avoiding bitterness and resentment

13. you can act this way but still be angry. the picture again of Christ, who at the cross said, Father forgive them for they don't know what they're doing.



6. Compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, bearing with one another, one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other

8. Patience — The art of listening. Hearing the other side.

9. Desire the good of the other person.

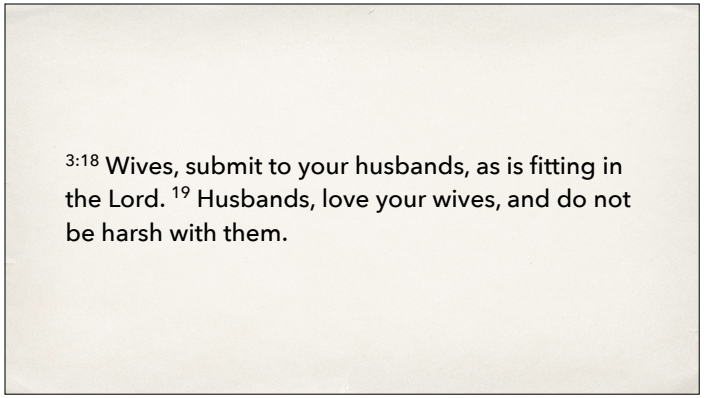
11. **Humility** — I could do so much better than you. That prideful thought is the opposite of Christ. Imagine if Jesus just said, I could do better than you. Of course he could, but he doesn't have that attitude.

11 Bearing With One Another — Putting up with each other — but there's sense of bearing with one another, bearing each others burdens.

12. Forgiveness avoiding bitterness and resentment

10. Forgive one another — especially when you have a complaint against them

13. you can act this way but still be angry. the picture again of Christ, who at the cross said, Father forgive them for they don't know what they're doing.



Why separate. Why not just say, couples do this.

13. Why not just say, couples love one another. Husbands and wives demonstrate Christ to one another. Why Submit and why Love and do not be harsh.

14. Wives, submit, as is fitting in the Lord. In other words, submit as you would submit to God. There's a decision in this to clearly choose to follow, even if

15. Husbands Love, and do not be harsh. Because men can be insensitive.

16. These are generalisations. And this is true. But the reason Paul separates Husbands and wives, is because each action is not based on the other's response.

It doesn't say, husbands, love your wives, if she appreciates you. And if she submits. And if she listens. It's this unconditional command— love your wife, don't be harsh with them.

17. The similarities is that both require you to honour the other partner. You cannot love without submitting. And God desires submission with love.

You are in Christ
Let His life be your life you
Let His Spirit fill your soul
Let His love be your love

I'm gonna ask you to respond today.
If God has been challenging you today, as a husband, or as a wife, or how you treat one another, as we come to a time of communion.
as you take the bread and cup, let that be your sign of a commitment to putting on Christ. Letting him fill you inside and to change how you live on the outside.

Secondly if God has indeed spoken to you today then let this be a new beginning. Say to him today, Jesus, let my life bring you praise.

If you need to talk to your husband or wife afterwards, or you would like to receive prayer, our prayer team will be available after communion, and during worship. It takes courage, but ask your husband or wife, to join you to be prayed for by the prayer team in the back today.