

COLOSSIANS 3b

12 Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must* do.

14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And *whatever* you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

- Chuck Smith says: "You know, a great way to make a miserable task into a blessing is to decide to do for the Lord Jesus..."
 - For those of us who have mopped, cleaned, painted, scrubbed, built, and sweated at the new building... We have done it as unto the Lord and most of it has been very enjoyable – except for breaking my leg, but that turned out OK too.
 - What tasks do YOU have that needs an attitude adjustment?
 - Do it for now on as unto the Lord...
 - NOW... Let's apply this principle...

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHRISTIAN HOUSEHOLDS

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

- Do it as unto the Lord...

19 Husbands, love your wives and **do not be bitter** toward them.

- Do it as unto the Lord...

20 Children, obey your parents in all **(Godly)** things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

- Do it as unto the Lord...
- The Lord is setting the family in order.
- 1 Corinthians 14:40 – “Let all things be done decently and in order.”

21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

- Do it as unto the Lord...
- Be reasonable... Kind... Instructive... Generous... Encouraging!
- Be willing to have a respectful discussion about your kid's feelings and opinions. Try your very hardest to not say, “BECAUSE I SAID SO!” too much. (Chuck Smith)

NOW...

- What would suppress a woman from lovingly submitting to her husband?
- What might dissuade a man from acting like Christ toward his bride?
- What could possibly prevent a kid from wanting to obey his parents?
- The sins of pride... grudge holding... Unforgiveness... Arrogance... Ingratitude...
- **LADIES...** Your husband will want to be a much better leader if you show him the respect a great husband desires...
 - AND... IF he is not yet one of those... **GREAT**
 - Show him all the respect you can muster up... It works! Try

it! Ask Lynette for ideas of how to show a knucklehead husband respect... SHE KNOWS!

- **MEN**... DO NOT fall into the trap of failing to love; show love; speak love; Think loving thoughts...Communicate that you love your wife the WAY SHE WANTS to hear it, feel it, read about it, see it...
- **FATHERS**... (Parents) – Be deliberate about helping your child develop into an independent young adult. Never belittle them, yell at them, lose your temper with them.
 - REMEMBER – You are training them how to treat your grandchildren someday.
 - Lighten up on the authority as you can and train them.
 - **Proverbs 22:6** “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”
 - “Train” means to train the mouth of...
 - Do you remember training you child to eat baby food? Do you remember the antics and nonsense you went through to convince them that creamed vegetables with no sugar or salt tasted good?
 - Have you forgotten?
 - You were willing to look and act foolishly in order for them to be fed.
 - SO WHY is it so difficult to be a little softer with them when they are older and are finding their way to adulthood?
 - Try to lead them into adulthood just as carefully as you would try to separate a piece of paper into two pieces, WITHOUT tearing it?
 - SLOWLY... A little at a time... Not too fast; BUT not too slow.
 - If your child gets to 16 and is still sharing and telling

you their feelings – You have done well!

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, (*NLT - not just when they are watching you*) as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

- IF your boss could monitor your daily production, would he\she be impressed with your initiative and hard work?
- Work for your boss as unto the Lord and I promise, you will be appreciated!

PUT YOUR HEART INTO IT

23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, (*put your heart into it*) as to the Lord and not to men,

- **CEV** - Do your work willingly, as though you were serving the Lord himself, and not just your earthly master.
- It has been a joy for me to watch the Christian tradesmen and workers at the building go above and beyond because they are working for the Lord, as it were.
- We should do that at work too.

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

- **COURSON** - Watching Mother Teresa care for people with their open sores, stinking bodies, and bleeding wounds, an observer said to her, "I wouldn't do what you do for a million dollars."
 - "Neither would I," Mother Teresa smiled. The only motivation big enough for such service is an eternal reward.

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.

- **GUZIK** - For ancient Christian slaves and for modern Christian workers, there is no guarantee on earth of fairness of treatment from those whom they work for. Sometimes **partiality** means that bad workers are unfairly rewarded and good employees are penalized or left unrewarded. Paul assures both our ancient brethren and us that there is a final rewarding and punishment, and with this **there is no partiality**.

You know... when we are judged in heaven it will not matter how good we looked or acted. Our hearts will be revealed to the Lord and perhaps even to us.

SO... Let us have pure intentions now! Let us dwell on virtuous things. Let us put our money where our heart is! Let us love – even those who are unlovely for the time being.

Let us show love to those who offer hate. THAT is what Jesus expects from His Children! Amen?