

Colossians: It's All About Jesus!

Lesson 7

Jesus Is Lord Over All of Life!

Colossians 3:17–4:1

In church-culture, it may seem like a given that Jesus should be Lord over all your life. But when we truly evaluate our day to day, we see how easy it is to segment out portions that we submit to Jesus's leading and portions we tend to keep for ourselves. Sometimes we live as though we have masks for different areas of our life. We are one way around these people, another way at work, another way at church, another way with our family, and so on. The hope in this lesson is that each of us would evaluate: Is Jesus Lord over my whole life?

Jesus Should Be WORSHIPPED IN EVERY AREA OF LIFE!

Colossians 3:17, *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Whatever we do can be worship to the Lord! But how does this begin to work itself out practically? The great reformer Martin Luther explained it this way: "When a father goes ahead and washes diapers or performs some other menial task for his child in Christian faith, God, with all his angels and creatures, is smiling, not because that father is washing diapers, but because he is doing so in Christian faith."

If this mundane task can be redeemed for the glory of God, then this builds a case that anything we do can be worship. The reason this sits odd for many of us is because this blows up our typical understanding of worship as a segmented weekend service. Many of us have grown up in a "sacred vs. secular" context, where there is church stuff and then there is life stuff. But according to Romans 12:1–2, worship is living in faith and obedience to Jesus in the everyday. This means that everything we do can be an expression of faith and obedience to God. Whatever we name, we can reclaim as worship because Jesus is to be Lord over your entire life!

Discussion Questions:

- Everything we do can be worship to God. What are some ways this impacts your daily life?
- Are there areas in your life that need to be reclaimed by Jesus?

How Can Jesus Be Worshipped Like This? A Few Examples:

- In **MARRIAGE: Show RESPECT & LOVE TO ONE ANOTHER**

Colossians 3:18–19, *Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.* ¹⁹ *Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.*

Beginning in verse 18, Paul gets specific and offers these believers a few everyday arenas where we can worship the Lord in everything we do. The first of these is in marriage. Do we see marriage as an opportunity to worship King Jesus?

When wives submit to their husbands, they worship the Lord. Let's be clear: this verse is not communicating inferiority or blind obedience. This Greek word for "submit" is actually used in other places to describe Christians modest and cooperative demeanor with others. Instead, the idea here is that wives should behave in such a way that helps produce kindness and love from the husband. This is a call to respect their husbands, not as a superior, but as someone you love and cherish! In fact, the last phrase "as is fitting to the Lord" means that the Lord defines what this respect and love should look like.

When husbands love their wives, they worship the Lord. The verse goes further and explains that the opposite of love is to be harsh. Paul unpacks his teaching on marriage further in Ephesians 5:22–33. In that passage he explains that a husband should love his wife like Christ loved the church: selflessly and graciously. A godly husband is not domineering, intimidating, or tyrannical. But rather, is constantly looking for more ways to serve her and build her up.

Discussion Question:

- What are some ways you can love your spouse the way Christ loved the Church?
- In **FAMILIES: Create A HOME OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH & ENCOURAGEMENT**

Colossians 3:20–21, *Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.* ²¹ *Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

Paul progresses from marriages to families. Part of loving the Lord in every arena of life is that kids would be obedient to their parents. This command goes all the way back to Exodus 20 and has always been a way to please the Lord. In the Colossians context, children were regarded as their father's

property and they did not have a very high status in the family or surrounding community. In some ways it was odd for Paul to address children in this way. But the fact that he did solidifies children's value in the eyes of the Lord, and that they too have an opportunity to worship God with an obedient life.

Additionally, this is inadvertently a command for parents. As parents submit to the rule and reign of Christ in their lives, they would honor the Lord in their parenting of the kids. This helps us make sense of verse 21. While this verse serves as a head nod to the Father being the spiritual leader in the home, the command is not limited to the Father. Again, in the context Fathers were the legal property owners of children, so in many ways it is appropriate to see this as an encouragement to both parents in our context.

Parents have an opportunity to worship the Lord as they seek to encourage their kids. When parents embitter, provoke, irritate, or nag their kids, naturally the children end up discouraged. While this doesn't mean parents should shy away from discipline not discipline, it carries with it an idea of parenting without exasperating, monotonous rules and regulations with no forms of encouragement, grace or love. When parents show grace, model Jesus' love and forgiveness, offer gentle rebukes, correction and discipline, and laugh and encourage their kids, they worship the Lord.

Discussion Question:

- How do these truths impact your role in your family?
- In **WORK: Be DILIGENT & SERVE THE LORD ALWAYS**

Colossians 3:22–4:1, Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism. ¹ Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

The third example area where Jesus is to be Lord is in our work. We are all called to the work of the Lord. Originally work was part of God's design for Adam and Eve back in the garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15). Though sin has affected our work, Jesus can redeem it to be a worship-filled endeavor.

In the passage, slavery was a political and economic system, not a racial system. It was drastically different than the slavery that comes to mind for

most Americans. Slaves found themselves paying off debts or in some forms of servitude, doing menial tasks day in and day out. In other words, Paul is addressing a people who were stuck in their humble circumstances and service-oriented jobs. And what is his encouragement? They can still worship the Lord by obeying their masters because ultimately they were working for the Lord. But they weren't alone. Masters were to treat their workers with respect, fairness, and love because they too were ultimately working for the Lord.

It doesn't matter who you work for, how much money you make, or the kind of lifestyle you have: we all work for the Lord. Therefore, our work can always be worship as work at it with all of our heart. Jesus is Lord over all our lives, in everything we do, may we worship Him!

Discussion Questions:

- How would your work change if Jesus was standing beside you while you worked?
- No matter the stage of life, we all work! How can your work be worship?