

# SHIFT

TURN YOUR WAYS

SERMON  
STUDY

07.21.2024

## Leader Corner

Change from the  
Inside Out

Colossians 3:18-4:9, Philemon

**Main Idea:** Order in family life.

Paul lived in a world where wives, children, servants and slaves had little control of their lives. The Christian ethic of “domestic order” included equal worth (Galatians 3:28) and equal responsibility before God (Romans 14:12 and Galatians 6:5). Paul’s outline for family order points us toward living out our different positions with Christlikeness.

**Main Practice:** Whether in positions of power or positions of service, act with the love of Christ.

**Main Teaching:** Colossians 3:18-4:9 and Philemon

## Refocus

## with Praise

Read Ephesians 4:32 aloud, and praise God for His compassion toward us.

## with

## Prayer

Have someone pray for your time together, and for this study.



1. Have someone read Colossians 3:18-4:9 and Philemon.
  
2. Discuss any questions or insights that you had after Sunday's sermon.
  
3. To understand Paul's "Rules for Family Life," we need to look at the lead-in verses in Colossians 3:11-14. Without order, there will be chaos, but if Paul's admonitions in these verses in Colossians are followed, there will be family life without power plays, abuse, disfunction, or disorder. All instructions should be carried out in Christ-like love. Discuss these verses, along with Ephesians 4:2-3 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11.
  
4. Yielding to the will of another person is something most people do not like! Yet all of us do submit to people, laws, governments and situations outside our control. In the eternal Kingdom of God, submission will be free of fear and doubts because all submission is ultimately to God, who is holy, good, just, merciful, and loving. Until Christ returns, how do we discern what is God's will that we should submit to? Use the following verses to discuss: Acts 5:29, Romans 12:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 John 4:1.
  
5. This section of scripture says nothing about our *rights*. Rather, here and in almost all of the New Testament, we are presented with our responsibilities to others, especially if we have worldly power. Discuss this concept using the following verses: Matthew 5:44-46, 23:11, John 13:34, Ephesians 4:32, 1 Timothy 5:8.
  
6. In Colossians 3:23-4:1, Paul tells us that even though we are saved eternally, there is a judgment for our works. Discuss, using the following verses: 1 Corinthians 3:12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:9-10, Ephesians 2:8-10, and 1 Peter 1:17.

Pray for each other and yourself, that we will live lives of Christ-like love, whether in power or service, all to the glory of God.

### For Further Focus

Look at the following scriptures that tell us that the incarnate God of all creation, our Savior Jesus Christ, submitted His earthly life to His Father's will. Contemplate what this means for our lives using Matthew 26:39, John 5:30, 12:49-50, 14:31, 15:10, Romans 4:7-8, Philippians 3:2-8, James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:6.