

## Do We Really Want to Get Practical?

Colossians 3:17—4:1

*Today in chapter three of Colossians the Apostle Paul continues his instructions for practical living.*

### 1: What we bring to this passage

- The Family: Do we take marriage and family for granted?
- Authority: Do we believe that God set up various authorities for our good?
  - This includes parents (Ex 20:12), the government (Rom 13:1-7), and the church (Matt 16:19). The problem is that *all are sinners*—yet this is God's good design.
- Slavery: Do we assume the Bible presents this as 'normal'?
  - *For more information:*  
<https://newlifeglenside.com/messages/slaves-and-slavery/>

### 2: What this passage brings to us

- For wives (3:18)
- For husbands and fathers (3:19, 21)

- For children (3:20)
- For those working in difficult circumstances (3:22-25)
- For everyone: live and work for the Lord (3:18, 20, 23, 24; 4:1)

### How Colossians 3:23 connects to the Lord's Supper

#### Questions for Further Reflection and Application

1. Read Colossians 3:18—4:1. How do you instinctively react to these teachings? Why?
  - a. The sermon described attitudes we might bring to this passage. Did any reflect you?
2. Do you have any personal experiences that illustrate the wisdom of Paul's family instructions? Reflect upon them. Share one in the small group (if applicable).
3. If one or more of the family instructions apply to you, note a practical way to start to apply it immediately.
4. This passage is, in part, about respecting earthly authorities. Yet 3:23 and at least four other verses (!) keep reminding us who the ultimate authority is. Why is this repeated so many times by Paul? Why should this be important to us?