



Pointers and questions on Paul's letter to the
COLOSSIANS

Session 9

3:18 – 4:6

Getting our Relationships Right

Summary

- 3:18-21** Directions for the ordering of life in the Christian family: the right attitudes for husbands and wives, parents and children.
- 3:22 – 4:1** Directions for the relationship between slaves and slave-owners.
- 4:2-4** The importance of prayer, which is an expression of our relationship with God, and which affects our relationships with one another.
- 4:5-6** How to conduct ourselves in our dealings with non-Christians.

Questions to get you thinking

1. Look at the instructions for husbands and wives in 3:18-19. What do they imply are the weaknesses that husbands and wives are liable to slip into? If you are married do you need to make any adjustments here?
2. What can we learn from 3:20-21 about attitudes between parents and children?
3. Slavery is not a feature of our society today. But how can Paul's instructions in 3:22-25 be applied to relations in the workplace?
4. For the average worker today, what is the main motivation for working hard? What, by contrast, is to be our own motivation? Would your own boss consider you a good worker?
5. Who is the boss we are really working for (3:23-24)? What difference should that make?
6. In what practical ways could a Christian employer show himself 'right and fair' (4:1) in the treatment of his staff?
7. What has 'being watchful' (4:2) got to do with prayer?
8. The word 'mystery' reappears in 4:3. Do you recall from its earlier appearances (1:26; 1:27; 2:2) what it means? If you get stuck, look back to the question sheet for Session 4.
9. Give examples of what it might mean to be 'wise in the way you act towards outsiders' (4:5).
10. What do you think it means to be 'salty' in our conversation (4:6)?

