

The Home And Congregational Harmony

Colossians 3:18-4:1

Intro:

- A. The "mystery" is the central issue in Paul's letter to the Colossians.
 - 1. Col. 1:25-29
 - 2. Col. 4:3

- B. What is the, "mystery of Christ"?
 - 1. Eph. 3:1-21, 5:32, 6:19
 - 2. I Cor. 2:7-16
 - 3. Rom. 11:13-25

- C. This "mystery" is not how to be saved, it is not Jew and Gentile in the "mystery body" of Christ. It could not be "tracked out" by using any man's wisdom, Jew or Gentile, Eph 3:8 (unsearchable = ἀνεξιχνίαστον) by studying the Old Testament. Men, Jew and Gentile have been able to see how God would justify man by faith. This mystery is all men, Jew and Gentile serving God in the Church (local) through Jesus Christ. Rom 16:25-26

- D. This was Paul's special calling.
 - 1. Acts 9:15-16
 - 2. Acts 22:20-21
 - 3. Rom. 2:16, Rom. 15:15-18
 - 4. This mystery and the teaching of it to Jew and Gentile was what Paul referred to as, "my gospel". Rom. 16:25-27

- E. Paul knew that this mystery would not survive long if each church member followed the "Old man" with his "deeds". This would be particularly true of their public worship services. Therefore:
 - 1. Vs. 15 They should let the peace of God rule.
 - 2. Vs. 16a They should let the Word of christ dwell in them richly.
 - 3. Vs. 16b They should teach and admonish.
 - 4. Vs. 17 They should direct every word and work toward Jesus Christ.

- F. Paul now addresses the issue of peculiar personal relationships.
 - 1. These could all exist in one home.
 - 2. This behavior toward one another must be demonstrated in public assembly.
 - 3. These commandments do not cover the full range of

these relationships but they do address them in reverence to worship.

I. To The Wives Vs. 18

- A. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands..."
1. "Submit" = ὑΠΟΤΑσσΩ = "to arrange under", "to be subordinate", "this does not mean inferior but has to do with the order of things, Eph. 5:22-24, I Tim. 2:9-15, Vs. 14 - "For Adam was first formed, then Eve."
 2. "adapt yourselves to the husband (of you)."
 3. They should not follow another man in the congregation. (for advice)
- B. "...as it is fit in the Lord."
1. "Fit" = ανηκω = "up + come", "come up to", "to come up to that which anyone should do who is in the Lord."
 2. "...as befits those who belong to the Lord." - TCNT

II. To The Husbands Vs. 19.

- A. "husbands, love your wife..."
1. "Love" = αγαπω = "the highest love".
 2. This love gives itself for others, John 3:16, It loves to the end, John 13:1, This love has mercy, Eph 2:4.
- B. "...and be not bitter against them."
1. "Bitter" = πικραινω = "bitter", "sour", "harsh".
 2. "...don't let bitterness or resentment or harshness show itself..."
 3. This would spoil the type, as Moses did when he struck the Rock. Eph 5:29

III. To The Children Vs. 20.

- A. "Children, obey your parents in all things..."
1. "Children" = τεκνον = a natural child or not.
 2. "Obey" = ὑΠακουω = "under" + "hear"
 3. To listen carefully that one might fully understand and do that which is spoken.
- B. "for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."

1. "Well-pleasing" = ευαρεστος = "acceptable".
2. "for at your age this is one of the best things you can do to show your love for the Lord."
3. "This really pleases God." - Phi

IV. To The Fathers, (parents Vs. 21.

- A. "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger..."
1. "Provoke" = ερεθίζω = "to rouse to anger", "to excite", "to irritate".
 2. "Do not fret and harass your children so that they harbor resentment."
 3. This surely applies to both parents.
- B. "...lest they be discouraged."
1. "Discouraged" = ακιμβο = "to be without spirit", "to loose heart".
 2. The child that is constantly irritated by continual and overzealous correction will loose heart and will go about listless and sullen. This would be over-correction or overseverity.

V. The Most Difficult Relationships - To The Slave Vs. 22,25 & 4:1

- A. Vs. 22 "Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh;"
1. "Servants" = δουλοι = "slaves", "bond slaves", Not the black slaves of the South but all who by reason of war, indebtedness, or voluntary submission, became subject to another's will.
 2. "Obey" = υπακουω = "to listen".
 3. Since they are saved, Jesus is their spiritual master. This was of overshadowing importance.
 4. Paul's opinion of slavery: I Cor. 7:20-23
 5. Philemon 15-16 (Vs. 10 Onesimus)
- B. "...not with eyeservice, as menpleasers;"
1. "Eyeservice" = οφθαλμοδουλια = "eye = slave" One who works well when the master watches.
 2. "Menpleasers" = ανθρωπαρεσκοι = "man + pleaser" One who is interested in making a good impression but cares nothing for the general good.
- C. "...but in singleness of heart, fearing God;"
1. "Singleness" = απλοτης = "single in one way and therefore, simple, opp. duplicity".

2. "Heart" = καρδια
 3. "Fearing" = φοβεομαι = "to be afraid" The slave should serve his master with devotedness and from fear of God more than fear of his master.
- D. Vs. 23 "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men:"
1. "Whatever you might do" This is to be taken to mean whatever is good and right.
 2. "Heartily" = ψυχης = "soul", That from which life springs.
 3. "Whatever work you do for your flesh master, do it with all your soul, and direct it toward Jesus and not some man."
 4. the second mile syndrome.
- E. Vs. 24 "Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Christ."
1. "Knowing" = οίδα = "to perceive".
 2. "Receive" = απολαμβανω = "to take from anyone", "to receive in full".
 3. "Reward" = ανταποδοσις = "giving back in turn", "recompense".
 4. "Inheritance" = κληρουομια = "that which makes one a receiver of a portion".
 5. "Serve" = δουλευω = "to serve as a slave".
 6. "for you know that it is from the Lord that you are going to get your pay in the form of an inheritance." - Wms (slaves could not inherit).
- F. Vs 25 "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."
1. "Wrong" = αδικεω = "unrighteous acts", "to wrong".
 2. "Receive" = κομιζω = "to bear for one's self".
 3. "Respect of persons" = προσωπολημψια = "to receive the face of a person", "partiality", "to look at a persons face before giving judgment".
 4. This is perfect revenge.

VI. To The Masters 4:1

- A. "Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal.."
1. "Give" = παρεχω = "to hold out to anyone", "provide".
 2. "Just" = δικαιος = "a right state".

3. "Equal" = ἰσότης = "What is equitable".

B. "...knowing that he also have a Master in heaven."

1. "A master of your own in heaven" - Mof

2. "...a heavenly employer" - Phi

3. "you will have to answer to your Master, the one in heaven."

