



Group Leader Guide

“A ‘Christ In Me’ Family” - Image of the Invisible

January 31, 2020

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Message Summary

This week, Lead Pastor **Jim Burgen** wraps up the “**Image of the Invisible**” series with Paul’s list of commandments in **Colossians 3:17-21**. In order to have Christ in your family, it takes effort on the part of each individual to have Christ in them, forming and shaping them to look more like Himself.

// Biblical Context: Family Values in Paul’s Time

Roman Household Codes: Colossians 3:18-25 is Paul’s version of a traditional Greco-Roman household code. These dealt with how the relationship between husband and wives, parents and children, and slaves and masters were to play out. **Ephesians 5:22-6:9** is a more in-depth version of this passage. What Paul is taking the culturally accepted norm, something his audience would have been very familiar with, and bringing it under Christ, thus elevating the importance of the relationships and the individuals involved. For an example of a secular household code, I have provided Aristotle’s below.

Colossians 3:18: Wifely submission (read: absolute obedience) to their husband was the ideal throughout Greco-Roman culture, of which the Colossians were a part. So ideal, in fact, that a wife’s obedience was sometimes mandated in the marriage contract. This was most likely due to the age discrepancy in married couples. Men generally waited until their 30’s to marry. When they did, it was usually through an arranged marriage to a

much younger woman in her teens. To them, the thought of a woman barely older than a child not obeying her husband, who was much older than her, was preposterous. Paul upholds the ideal but balances it with *mutual* submission (see **Ephesians 5:21**) and love from the husband (see **Ephesians 5:25-33** and **Colossians 3:19**).

Colossians 3:19: Ancient household codes emphasized the husband’s role to rule over his wife (see Aristotle’s code below). Love and compassion were good qualities to have, but secondary. Paul flips this on its head. Love was the priority, and treating your wife harshly was prohibited.

Colossians 3:20-21: Children were obviously supposed to obey their parents. They essentially had no rights in Greco-Roman culture. Beating children was commonplace, both from fathers and educators. It was a way of humbling and teaching them. Paul is among a minority of writers who did not teach excessive physical discipline.

// Aristotle’s Household Code from *Politics*

“Of household management we have seen that there are three parts- one is the rule of a master over slaves, which has been discussed already, another of a father, and the third of a husband. A husband and father, we saw, rules over wife and children, both free, but the rule differs, the rule over his children being a royal, over his wife a constitutional rule. For although there may be exceptions to the



order of nature, the male is by nature fitter for command than the female, just as the elder and full-grown is superior to the younger and more immature.”

// References

Aristotle. (2017). *Politics* (B. Jowett, Trans.). The Internet Classics Archive. <http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.1.one.html> (Original work published ca. 350 B.C.E)

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Group Discussion Questions

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// Bible References

Colossians 1:27, 3:17-21; John 10:10; Proverbs 13:24; Acts 5:29

// Message Screenshots

- How much difference does or should “Christ in us” make in our everyday lives and how does that change happen?
- It makes sense on a logical, practical basis that Jesus would know how any and everything that He created would work and function best to get to the best possible outcome.
- God is good, God loves you, and God wants good for you.
- Why would a God of love ever give you a command to do anything when it comes to how you should or shouldn’t live any part of your life?
- He loves you and wants good for you and wants you to have the best possible outcome for all the parts of your life.
- “God’s commandments to us are not conditional to receive His love. They are confirmation that we already have it.” -Andy Stanley
- A wife voluntarily puts herself under the leadership of her husband for the purpose of achieving the same common, agreed-upon goal.
- As long as it agrees with or fits with what you know to be true about the Lord Jesus.
- A loving husband considers and prioritizes his wife’s life and needs above his own.
- The “do not be harsh with them” is an “abuse of power” clause.
- Jesus’ (and a husband’s) main leadership muscle is sacrificial serving.
- Husbands have the power to provide for and protect their wife’s heart but he also has the power to poison her soul.
- Fathers, don’t do things or say things that will affect your children in such a way that places them in a “no-win” situation.
- It takes a quantity of quality time with your children to set them up well for life.
- The best way to lead your wife and your children will always be from the overflow of “Christ in you” changing and leading you.
- Why would we tell God “no”?
 1. Pride
 2. Fear
- How does a man become a “Christ in me” husband and father?
- How does a woman become a “Christ in me” wife or mother?
- How does a kid become a “Christ in me” person who “pleases the Lord”?



- You choose to begin putting yourself in better positions for the changing, forming grace of Jesus to get to work in you.
- I will ask Christ to come and live in me.
- Set my heart (my will and will power) on Jesus.
- Set my mind (my thoughts and imaginations) on Jesus.
- I will start filling myself up with the words of Christ.
- I will start reading about the life of Jesus in my Bible.
- I will put to death and get rid of the obvious things that are interfering in my relationship with God and with the most important people in my life.
- Christ in me

// Discussion Questions

1. When is it hard for you to trust that God's commandments are given for your benefit?

2. What typically comes to mind when you hear the phrase, "Wives, submit to your husbands"?
3. How have you seen this command used wrong in your life or the life of someone else?
4. Has your perception of this command changed based on the sermon? If so, how?
5. Wives, when is it hard for you to submit to your husband?

6. Husbands, are you more concerned with your wife's submission to you or your sacrificial love for her? Explain.
7. Husbands, when is it hard for you to love your wife?

8. Read Colossians 3:21. In your opinion, why do you think this verse is aimed at fathers, specifically, instead of parents in general?
9. Fathers, how often do you spend quality time with your children?

10. What is the reasoning behind why you say "no" to the command(s) pertaining to you in this passage? Pride? Fear? Something else?
11. How can you put yourself in a better position for the changing, forming grace of Jesus to get to work in you?