

Essential Rules of Engagement.

The Book of Colossians — EPISODE 9 (Colossians 3:22—4:1)

Christ-centered rules of engagement are essential for healthy relationships.

Colossians 3:22–4:1 — ²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. ²³ Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. ²⁴ Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ. ²⁵ But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites. ¹ Masters, be just and fair to your slaves. Remember that you also have a Master—in heaven.

Scripture is sometimes descriptive, and at other times, it's instructive.

God's commands are always in accord with His character.

***ProPresetner illus: chart

Essential Rules for Workers: Work hard and with a good attitude.

Essentials Rule for the Boss: Demonstrate kindness and dignity to all.

It is essential to honor God and bring Him glory, whatever context and status we live in.

PRACTICING THE WAY

As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice. We are not pursuing perfection but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.

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Start the Bible Recap reading plan with a friend.

Recite this prayer daily:

Father, You have chosen to reveal your love to humanity. We long to respond, giving You our love and loyalty. Jesus, may we choose to be hidden in Your righteousness and not seen in our self-righteousness. Holy Spirit, please empower us to cultivate healthy relationships and a holy life. Grace us to move beyond our self-centered approach to relationships and walk into the newness of Christ-centered relationships. Amen

Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or your Group)

- Read Colossians 3:22-4:1. What do you notice in this passage?
- Sunday's message was about the essential attributes of Christ-centered relationships, focusing on work and school. Did anything stand out to you or raise a question?
- On a scale of 1 to 7 (1 being lazy and 7 being perfect), how would you rate yourself as an employee (or student)?
- What makes a good student/employee?
- Have you ever witnessed or heard bullying or racism take place? How did that make you feel? How did you respond?
- Read Titus 2. What do these verses tell us about representing Jesus? How does being a good student or employee represent Christ well?
- Say the following prayer slowly as a group: *Father, You have chosen to reveal your love to humanity. We long to respond, giving You our love and loyalty. Jesus, may we choose to be hidden in Your righteousness and not seen in our self-righteousness. Holy Spirit, please empower us to cultivate healthy relationships and a holy life. Grace us to move beyond our self-centered approach to relationships and walk into the newness of Christ-centered relationships. Amen*