

Essential Rules of Engagement.

The Book of Colossians — EPISODE 8 (Colossians 3:17—4:1)

Essential Rules of Engagement

[Colossians 3:17–4:1](#) — ¹⁷ And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. ¹⁸ Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly. ²⁰ Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged. 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.

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

Essential rules for Wives: Submit to your husband.

Essential rules for Husbands: Love your wife.

Essential rules for Children: obey your parents.

Essential rules for Fathers/Parents: unceasing care & gentle communication.

Essential rules for Employees: Work hard and with a good attitude.

Essential rules for Employers: Demonstrate kindness and value to all.

Are you living surrendered to Jesus, who is LORD and KING?

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.

Start the Bible Recap reading plan with a friend.

Recite this prayer each day:

Father, You have chosen to reveal your love to humanity. We long to respond with our love and loyalty. Jesus, may we choose to be hidden in Your righteousness and not seen in our self-righteousness. Holy Spirit, 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 connect group)

- Read Colossians 3:17-4:1. What do you notice in this passage?
- Sunday's message was about the essential attributes of Christ-centered relationships. Did anything stand out to you or raise a question?
- Read Ephesians 5:15-33. What are the similarities between this passage and Colossians 3? What are the different details?
- Why do you think relationships are important to God? What are some distinctions between Christ-centered relationships and relationships that are self-centered?
- On a scale of 1 to 7 (one being uber lazy and 7 being perfect), how would you rate yourself as an employee (or student)?
- What makes a good student/employee?
- Say the following prayer slowly as a group:

Father, You have chosen to reveal your love to humanity. We long to respond with our love and loyalty. Jesus, may we choose to be hidden in Your righteousness and not seen in our self-righteousness. Holy Spirit, 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