



# A Journey in Discipleship Life in Everyday Relationships

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**Put this controversial passage in context:**

- **Context in the book of Colossians**
- **Context in 1<sup>st</sup> century culture**

**Put this passage into practice in modern culture**



# Life in Everyday Relationships

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## Context in the book of Colossians

Paul is having a conversation with real people....

- Wives, husbands, children, parents, masters and slaves

Who are living in new community

And who live in a particular culture

Challenging them to rethink all of who they are in light of their new identity in Christ

**The nature of the Bible... a redemptive conversation that God is having with particular believing communities asking, “What does it mean in your particular culture to live all of life in response to Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, an embodiment of his self-giving love**

# Life in Everyday Relationships

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## Context in the book of Colossians

Redemptive conversation...

...in union with Jesus, you are not merely forgiven and declared right before God

...you are also essentially, deeply made new...something made alive in you that wasn't alive before

What is the essence of this new life... *“over all these virtues put on love”*

- A love that looks like the cross....the essence of your new life involves a kind of “Cruiciformity”
- Your progressive newness in Christ, involves pressing the reality of Jesus’ self-giving, self-denying, sacrificial love into all the ordinary places of life



# Life in Everyday Relationships

## Context of 1<sup>st</sup> century culture

- The family unit consisted of spouses, parents, slaves
- The family structure....*paterfamilias*...all recognized legal authority/power was in the hands of the man

Paul writes into this particular culture...rethink your relationships in light of your new life in Christ and his ethic of love

Paul begins each couplet talking to the “powerless” ones

●Wives

●Children

●Slaves

By addressing them publicly...Christ gives them an honor, worth, position that the culture did not give them



# Life in Everyday Relationships

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## Context in 1<sup>st</sup> century culture

To the powerless...you have an honor in Christ and a greater authority in your life than a husband, parent, master

**3:18.....Wives**

**3:20.....Children**

**3:22-25...Slaves**

To each of these powerless groups Christ brings an honor, value, worth and meaning that the culture could not give them...  
...to live new lives energized with purpose to honor and serve the One who honored and served them at the cross in His powerlessness



# Life in Everyday Relationships

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## Context of 1<sup>st</sup> century culture

When Paul speaks to those with power, he calls them to live a new life shaped by categories totally beyond their culture

**3:19...Husbands**

**3:21...Fathers (Parents)**

**4:1...Masters**

The implications of the gospel ran contrary to 1<sup>st</sup> century family structure  
...just as shocking to Greco-Roman culture as it is to 21<sup>st</sup> century culture



# Life in Everyday Relationships

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## Putting this passage into practice in modern culture

**The nature of the Bible... a redemptive conversation that God is having with particular believing communities asking, “What does it mean in your particular culture to live all of life in response to Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, an embodiment of his cruciform love?”**

***Today, God is conversing with our community ...with you and me... asking, “How do you live in these relationships not shaped by a culture of individual rights but shaped by your newness in Christ and His self-giving, self-denying love???”***

**Marriage?**

**Parenting?**

**Workplace?**

**(school)**

