

Your Daily Appointments with God

MONDAY: Principle 1: *Teach the Word by doing preventive instruction as well as corrective discipline.* Read Ephesians 6:4 and Colossians 3:16, 21. Let your kids see you relating to God's Truth as the final authority on all of life and godliness! Principle 2: *Build a love relationship by giving your child quality and quantity time to build a basis for discipline.* Read Hebrews 12:6. Write one specific action or attitude, which helps, in applying the principles.

TUESDAY: Principle 3: *Keep communication open by being a good listener and seeking to see life through your child's eyes.* Read Proverbs 4:20–23 and 18:3. Explore the real heart issues behind your child's disobedience, anger or exasperation. Principle 4: *Be clear and consistent by establishing clear, realistic expectations, rewards and consequences.* Read Colossians 3:21 and Deuteronomy 30:15–20. Note how clearly God communicates with His people.

WEDNESDAY: Principle 5: *Be your child's #1 fan by believing in him or her, encouraging them and allowing them the freedom to fail.* Read John 21:15–17. Remember that grace trusts, granting freedom with responsibility. How did Jesus model grace to Peter and express confidence in him? Let's do the same in the lives of our kids.

THURSDAY: Principle 6: *Encourage your child's relationship with Christ by majoring on the majors and minoring on the minors.* Read Matthew 22:36–37. What are the major issues? Ask the Lord for wisdom to nurture the personal faith of your kids or grandkids—or if single, your friends. Without Christ, all our efforts are in vain.

FRIDAY: Principle 7: *Focus on your example and point to Christ as the model you are pursuing.* Read Philippians 3:17, Ephesians 5:1 and 1 Thessalonians 1:6–7. Why is it important to see real faith lived out in real people? Principle 8: *Teach in the context of life by seizing daily teaching moments.* Read Deuteronomy 6:5–7. Write down one specific action or attitude to help apply the principles. Ask the Lord to show you daily, opportunities to teach from real life into the lives of your kids or fellow disciples.

The Case for Christ!

Part 14 - Colossians 3:20-4:1

Intro: Last week we studied Colossians 3:18-19 in which the apostle Paul taught the church at Colossae the **Biblical practice and principle of authority and submission.**

Paul introduced a ***new presence, a new power, a new purpose, and a new pattern*** in marriage, in the home and in relationships and it's the ***presence and power of Jesus Christ!***

• This was the game plan for relationships that Paul was teaching the church.

“ . . . in your hearts revere (or set apart – NKJV) Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

I. Paul Continues To Teach On The Three Spheres of Relationships

A. 1st) Husbands and wives vss. 18-19, (2nd) now parents and _____ vss. 20-21, and (3rd) masters and servants (or slaves) vss. 22-25.

B. In each case there is _____ responsibility to submit, to love, to obey and to encourage, to work hard and be fair.

➤ *“Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord.”* (Vs. 20)

C. In 2 Timothy, it describes the evils of the last days, it says one of these evils of the last days will be disobedience to _____.

• *“For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred.”* 2 Timothy 3:2 (NLT)

D. “Parents, God desires you to make your family a sample of the family in heaven. Guard your children. Be kind and tender with them. Father, mother, and children are to be joined together with the golden links of love. One well-ordered, well-disciplined family is a greater power in demonstrating the efficiency of Christianity than all the sermons in the world. When fathers and mothers realize how their children copy them, they will watch carefully every word and gesture.” (EGW, Manuscript 31, 1901)

E. *“Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged* Colossians 3:21 (NLT)

• You can draw a line through “fathers (pateres),” if you want, and write “_____,” because that's what the word means.

-Continued inside-

- F. It is translated in Hebrews 11:23 as “parents,” or should be translated, because there it says, “Moses was hid three months by his pateres.”
- G. So what you really have in verse 21 is, “Parents, _____” – or stop provoking your children, lest they be discouraged. Stop literally irritating or nagging your children, so they may not lose heart.
- H. Now How Can We Irritate Our Children?
- Number One: _____. No trust, all rules, all deprivation. You never ever allow them any liberty.
 - Number Two: You can irritate your children by _____. Comparing them with other kids in the family who do better than they do. “Why can’t you be like Johnny? He always does his homework.”
 - Number Three: You can irritate your child by depreciating his or her _____. Or as a parent you demean their opinions because they’re children. You say, Only speak when your asked, so don’t give me your opinion on anything!
 - Number Four: You can irritate your child by _____ because you don’t ever reward them for anything, therefore they never feel like they’ve succeeded.
 - Number Five: Another good way to irritate your child is never demonstrate any _____ for him or her. You don’t ever go out of your way to love them, or hug them, or kiss them, in a physically affectionate way.
 - Number Six: Another way to irritate your children is by destructive _____.
 - Number Seven: Another way to irritate a child is by _____. A classic illustration is. Absalom was a tragic young man, who tried to murder his own father David. A classic illustration of a son who was neglected by a father. You can really irritate your child by neglect.
 - Number Eight: You can irritate your child by _____. Where your discipline can humiliate or ridicule them, or where you constantly yell at them or physically hurt them.
- I. Now Paul talks about the “Third Sphere of Relationships.”
- “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. vs. 23, Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.” Colossians 3:22-23 (NLT)

- J. The Bible only reveals what sinful human nature did, it does NOT _____ slavery!
- The Lord did NOT approve of slavery! God’s IDEAL was for His people to NEVER have slaves yet they _____ to became like the pagans around them who owned slaves.
 - The Lord allowed it yet was not PLEASED with His people. So the Lord humanizes slaves in the eyes of ALL people by including slaves/servants the Ten Commandments (The fourth commandment).
- “Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. vs. 9, You have six days each week for your ordinary work, vs. 10, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female **servants**, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. Exodus 20:8-10 (NLT)
- K. When the Israelites asked God to have slaves, the Lord _____ the slaves by telling the Israelites that after _____ years you must give freedom to the slaves.
- L. Paul gives two reasons: negative and positive.
- The first is _____, vs. 24 says, “Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.”
 - There’s a negative reason vs. 25, “But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites.”
- “Masters, be just and fair to your slaves. Remember that you also have a Master—in heaven.” Colossians 4:1 (NLT)
- M. “The humble, common duties of life are all to be performed with fidelity; ‘heartily,’ says the apostle, ‘as to the Lord’ (Colossians 3:23). Whatever our department of labor, be it housework or field work or intellectual pursuits, we may perform it to the glory of God so long as we make Christ first and last and best in everything.” (EGW, Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 459)
- N. **The Case for Christ** - means that if your Christianity is to affect your world, it’ll affect first your home. **Vs. 1 of chap. 3 says,** “If you’re risen with Christ, live it. Put off the old man, put on the new man.” vs. 15: “Let the peace of Christ rule.” vs. 16: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you.” vs. 17: “Let the name of Christ guide you.”
- It’s your faith in action powered by the Holy Spirit that’ll be the power that brings about great social reform and change.