

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS COLOSSIANS 4:7-18

INTRODUCTION:

1. All through the book of Colossians emphasis is placed on putting Jesus at the center of our lives. He is our everything!
2. The last chapter turns our attention to the relationships that we enjoy as brethren who live Christ-centered lives.

I. FRIENDSHIP

- A. From the names that Paul mentions, it is implied that Paul enjoyed some wonderful friendships with his brethren.
- B. The Bible emphasizes friendship.
 1. We can be friends with God. (James 2.23; 4.4)
 2. We can be friends with Jesus. (Luke 12.4; John 15.14)
 3. We can be friends with one another. (Heb. 13.1)
- C. What do friends do for each other?
 1. Friends correct. (Prov. 27.6; 12.1)
 2. Friends counsel. (Prov. 27.9)
 3. Friends comfort. (Prov. 27.10)

II. FEELINGS

- A. In Colossians 4, Paul expresses his feelings for his fellow brethren. (Col. 4.7,9,14; 1.7)
- B. As brethren, we are to have feelings for each other.
 1. Do we love each other as Jesus loves us? (John 13.34,35)
 2. **1 John 4.7:** *“Beloved, let us love one another.”*

III. FELLOWSHIP

- A. Three times Paul referred to the fellowship that he shared with his brethren. (Col. 4.7,10,11)
- B. Fellowship transcends all barriers
 1. It transcends social barriers. (Col. 4.9)
 2. It transcends racial barriers. (Col. 4.10,11)
 3. It transcends gender barriers. (Col. 4.15)
- C. **GALATIANS 3.28:** *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female”*

CONCLUSION: When the world sees the special relationship we have as Christians, it will compel them to obey the gospel.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST **AUGUST 21, 2022**
2424 McCARRAN ST.
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89031
(702) 642-3141 **WWW.NLVCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM**

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ☐ North Las Vegas, NV ☐ 89030
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: Pruitt@nlvchurchofchrist.com
Be sure to watch us live at www.nlvchurchofchrist.com
Facebook: Chris Pruitt

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

August 21, 2022

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

LOVING YOUR BRETHREN IS LOVING GOD

It is fascinating to me how loving God and loving your brethren are so closely connected. You cannot love God without also loving your brethren. At the same time, to love your brethren is to love God. Watch what the Bible says about this love connection.

We love God by loving one another. Jesus tells us that the two greatest commandments are to love God and love your neighbor as yourself (Matt. 22.34-40). In fact, if you study this passage carefully, Jesus is telling us that we are to love God with every fiber of our being. And the way we show love toward God is by the way we treat our fellow man. To love God is to keep His commandments (1 John 5.3). And at the heart of His commandments is to love one another (Rom. 13.8-10). Therefore, I show how much I love God by keeping His commandments to love my brethren.

We love one another by loving God. The apostle John wrote that we can know that we love our brethren, *“when we love God and keep His commandments”* (1 John 5.2). When I love my brethren, I am showing love to God. At the same time, when I love God, I am going to show love toward my brethren.

You cannot have one without the other. It is impossible to love God without loving your brethren (1 John 4.21). When we love, it must always extend both to God and to our brethren. CLP

KNOWING WHAT IS RIGHT

GENESIS 18:25

INTRODUCTION:

1. Abraham did what few are able to do. Abraham presented his case before God. (Job 23.4,5; Gen. 18.25)
2. We find it difficult to reconcile the injustice in the world with the righteousness of God. (1 Sam. 15.3; Jer. 12.1; Deut. 32.4)
3. How can we know how to always do what is right?

I. THE WORD OF GOD IS RIGHT

- A. The Bible is “*the word of righteousness*” (Heb. 5.13)
 1. **HEBREWS 5.12:** They were lazy in hearing.
 2. **HEBREWS 5.13:** They were unskilled in reading.
 3. **HEBREWS 5.14:** They were unpracticed in discerning.
- B. To know what is right, we must turn to the Bible.
 1. There is a famine in the land. (Amos 8.11)
 2. The Bible will judge us. (John 12.48; Rev. 20.12,13,15)
 3. It instructs us in righteousness. (2 Tim. 3.16)

II. THE JUDGMENTS OF GOD ARE RIGHT

- A. God always “*judged righteously.*” (1 Pet. 2.23)
 1. Peter was writing to Christians who suffered because of their faith. (1 Pet 1.1; 2.20-23)
 2. Jesus did not decide what was right by the judgments of society or culture, but by God. (1 Pet. 2.23)
- B. To know what is right, we must appeal to God’s judgments.
 1. His judgments are always right. (Acts 17.31; 2 Tim. 4.8)
 2. We cannot make decisions based on how others may judge us but on how God will judge us.

III. THE SON OF GOD IS RIGHT

- A. Jesus is “*the Holy One and the Just*” (Acts 3.13,14)
 1. Jesus was tempted in all points. (Luke 4.2; Heb. 4.15)
 2. Jesus was under watch. (Luke 6.7; 11.54)
 3. Jesus was interrogated. (Luke 23.14,15)
- B. To know what is right, we must follow His example.
 1. Do you serve like Jesus? (John 13.13-15)
 2. Do you sacrifice like Jesus? (John 13.34)
 3. Do you suffer like Jesus? (1 Pet. 2.21)

CONCLUSION: To live in heaven, we must be right. (2 Pet. 3.13)

FINDING OUT WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE

If you are like me, you want to be in fellowship with God. If I study the Bible carefully, I discover that fellowship with God is possible when I walk in the light (1 John 1.7). But what does it mean to walk in the light? In Ephesians 5, the inspired penman wrote, “*walk as children of light...finding out what is acceptable to the Lord*” (Eph. 5.8-10). The way to walk in the light is to walk in a way that is acceptable to God. So if I want to walk in the light, I need to figure out what kind of behavior God finds acceptable.

In every culture, there are certain behaviors that are considered acceptable and others which are looked on with disdain. Yelling at a cashier at a store, using foul language in public, cutting in line, talking loudly in a movie theatre, all describe behavior which is unacceptable in polite society. But what does God consider acceptable and unacceptable behavior? If I want to find out what is acceptable to the Lord, where do I go?

Some try to use intuition to decide what is acceptable. If it seems good to us, then it must be okay with God. Yet the wise man warns us that “*there is a way that seems right to man, but its end is the way of death*” (Prov. 14.12). Others believe that we can use our own intelligence to figure it out. But God Himself tells us that we are incapable of deciphering what is acceptable to God on our own because “*‘My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD*” (Isa. 55.8).

There is only one way to “*understand what the will of the Lord is*” (Eph. 5.17). God needs to reveal His will to man. Without God telling us what He finds acceptable, there is no way for us to know. There is good news. God has revealed His will to man. The Bible tells us that “*God has revealed them to us through His Spirit*” (1 Cor. 2.10). The Holy Spirit has revealed the will of God to certain individuals. Specifically, “*it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets*” (Eph. 3.5). When the will of God was revealed to these men, they wrote down this revelation, “*so that when you read, you may understand*” (Eph. 3.4).

Walking in the light is walking in ways that are acceptable to God. The things which are acceptable to God can be found in the Bible. If we live our lives by the teachings of scripture, then we will be walking in the light. And when we walk in the light, we will have fellowship with God.