



## Sunday Sermon Discussion Outline

Pastor Philip Thomas, June 7, 2026

Colossians 3:18-4:1 – Living in Christ (Part 3)

We must understand the context and purpose of this passage to respond to the difficult questions it raises regarding relationships between husbands and wives, fathers and children, and masters and slaves.

We must discern the hardness of our hearts and yield to godly transformation.

We must submit to one another in the Lord, rather than seeking to rule over others.

We must love others with the love of the Lord.

We must obey others in accordance with the character, will, and Word of God.

We must reform inhumane practices in accordance with godly standards.

We respond and apply the Word of God we have heard by living in Christ, according to the rules of God's household.

May you have every encouragement from being united with Christ, comfort from his love, common sharing in the Spirit, tenderness and compassion, that your joy may be complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. May you do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, may you value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, may you have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2:1-5, 4:7)

### Discussion Questions:

- What are the questions that come to mind when you read this passage?
- Since the Bible was written in the specific context of the Near East in its time, how can it apply to all people everywhere, for all time?
- What does it mean to harden our hearts? What is the consequence? How can a hardened heart be softened?
- How should we understand and exercise mutual submission?
- What does it mean to love one another in the context of this passage?
- What should our obedience to others look like?
- How can the Church bring about reform and societal change?
- What does it mean to live in Christ, according to the rules of God's household?