

## Friday

Read Colossians 4:1–6 and 1 Peter 3:15–16. What idea do these passages have in common?

Paul says to “make the most of every opportunity.” What are some potential opportunities to share your faith that could come your way (volunteering at secular charities, inviting neighbors over, etc.)?

How can you be better prepared for any opportunity to share your faith?

*Ask God to help you develop these opportunities.*

## Saturday

*Please finish up devotions you may have missed. Pray for God to empower you to have grace-filled relationships with everyone you meet!*



PART 5

# ...FOR GREAT RELATIONSHIPS

MARCH 3 & 4, 2012 • RENÉ SCHLAEPPER

## Showing grace in 3 important relationships

### 1. Husbands and wives

- **Grace-filled** \_\_\_\_\_ **for my husband**

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. *Colossians 3:18*

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. *Ephesians 5:21*

Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. *Ephesians 5:33*

- **Grace-filled** \_\_\_\_\_ **for my wife**

Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. *Colossians 3:19*

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her... *Ephesians 5:25*

### 2. Parents and Children

- **Grace-filled** \_\_\_\_\_ **of my parents**

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. *Colossians 3:20*

- **Grace-filled** \_\_\_\_\_ **of my children**

Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become **discouraged**. *Colossians 3:21*



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### 3. Bosses and Workers

#### • Grace-filled \_\_\_\_\_ for my employer

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence **for the Lord**. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working **for the Lord**, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance **from the Lord** as a reward. **It is the Lord** Christ you are serving. *Colossians 3:22–24*

**NOTE:** In the book of Philemon, sent with the book of Colossians to a member of the church there, Paul pleads for the freedom of a slave.

#### • Grace-filled \_\_\_\_\_ for my workers

Masters, provide your slaves with what is **right** and **fair**, because you know that **you also have a Master** in heaven. *Colossians 4:1*

Heavenly Father, I pray that the grace-filled attitude of Jesus Christ would be expressed in my relationship with \_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for your grace for me! I pray that you would teach and empower me to live filled with grace in all my relationships.

## Daily Meditations

### Monday

Read Colossians 3:18. Some people claim verses like this make the Bible seem chauvinistic. Read the following verses: Galatians 3:27–29; Luke 8:1–3; Acts 2:16–17; Acts 18:1–3 and 24–26; Micah 6:4; Judges 4:4; 2 Chronicles 34:22. What are your conclusions based on all these verses?

Read the parallel passage in Ephesians 5:21–33. In light of all these verses, what could the instruction to “submit” mean, as it relates to living a life filled with grace?

*Ask God to help you understand how to apply His word to your life.*

### Tuesday

Read Colossians 3:19. In the parallel passage in Ephesians 5:22–23, Paul specifies that husbands should love their wives “as Christ loved the church”. What’s that mean as it relates to living a life filled with grace? (For ideas, see Philippians 2:1–11 for a beautiful description of Christ’s attitude)

Write down 3 ways a husband could love his wife as Christ loved the church (if you’re a husband, write down three ways you could do this before the week is over!):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

*Thank God today for the great sacrifice He made on our behalf, demonstrating His immense love for us in Jesus Christ! Ask God to give you an attitude today that puts others’ needs before your own, especially those closest to you.*

### Wednesday

Read Colossians 3:20–21. In the parallel passage in Ephesians 6:1–4, what is the promise given to children who obey?

How does obedience lead, generally, to a longer life and prosperity?

What are fathers told NOT to do? What are some of the ways parents could do this to their children?

Action step for parents this week: If the primary way children are frustrated by their children is inaccessibility, then in what ways can you make yourself more accessible to your kids this week?

*Thank God for His gift of the family! Though your current family or family of origin is not perfect, think of aspects of your family you can thank God for! Ask Him to help you be the parent and child He wants you to be.*

### Thursday

Read Colossians 3:22–24 and 4:1. Paul’s principles apply well to an employer-employee relationship. How does Paul say we should serve our earthly authorities? Why?

How could this idea change your attitude in, or even your performance in, your job?

What does Paul say to bosses? How can this apply to you?

*Thank God He owns it all! Ask Him to help you see Him as your ultimate boss, and act accordingly. Take to Him any concerns you have about your job now.*



Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men. *Colossians 3:23*