



Inviting people into the story of Jesus



Jesus > Division

8 But now set aside these things, such as anger, rage, malice, slander, and obscene language. **9** Don't lie to each other. Take off the old human nature with its practices **10** and put on the new nature, which is renewed in knowledge by conforming to the image of the one who created it. **11** In this image there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all things and in all people.

Colossians 3:8-11

18 Wives, submit to your husbands in a way that is appropriate in the Lord. **19** Husbands, love your wives and don't be harsh with them. **20** Children, obey your parents in everything, because this pleases the Lord.

21 Parents, don't provoke your children in a way that ends up discouraging them.

22 Slaves, obey your masters on earth in everything. Don't just obey like people pleasers when they are watching. Instead, obey with the single motivation of fearing the Lord.

1 Masters, be just and fair to your slaves, knowing that you yourselves have a master in heaven.

Colossians 3:18-22, 4:1

23 Whatever you do, do it from the heart for the Lord and not for people. **24** You know that you will receive an inheritance as a reward. You serve the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:23-42

Discussion Points and Questions

Where do you see division among groups of people? Have you experienced first-hand certain people enjoying privileges because of their skin color, wealth, or beliefs?

Name some recent stories within our society's news cycle that illustrate division among people. In what ways do these stories demonstrate how everyday concerns differ for different groups of people?

In Paul's letter to the believers in Colossae, he provides new ways of treating those who are a part of the community of believers. Can you share a teaching you received in your childhood about a particular group of people that would be challenged by Paul's teaching?

Describe a way in which you have personally enjoyed a certain privilege because of your skin color, wealth, or beliefs. What is one way that you can sacrifice the privilege you have been afforded in our society for the sake of those who are not?

Is the church in general known more for bridging division among people or contributing to division? Looking at the teachings of Paul, how can the church model reconciliation among people who society segregates?