**“Transformed Relationships in the Kingdom of God”**

Going deeper in Colossians 3:18-4:1

**INTRODUCTION** – In the previous passage the Apostle Paul has outlined some of the changes that take place in your life because you have come into a relationship with Jesus and are now operating on the power of the Holy Spirit. Now he turns to what that means practically in our relationships.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through Him. 18 And wives be subject to your own husbands as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands sacrificially love your wives and do not do anything to make them bitter. 20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. 21 Fathers do not provoke your children or they will become discouraged. 22 Bondservants, obey your earthly masters in everything not only when they are watching to win their favor, but with a singleness of heart out of reverence for the Lord. 23 And whatever you do, work at it with your whole heart for the Lord and not for men 24 knowing that your inheritance will come from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving. 25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done without partiality. 4:1 Masters give your bondservants what is right and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. When sin broke into our world things went wrong in our relationships. Think back to the Garden of Eden. What happened in Adam & Eve’s relationship when they gave into temptation? What happened in the relationship between Cain & Abel? What were relationships like between people just before the flood? According to these verses how should our relationships be transformed because of life in Jesus?

2. How might the Kingdom values of “being subject to one another” and “loving one another” change other relationships that are not mentioned here?

3. How would family relationships be changed if we followed what is in these verses?

4. How would the culture of workplaces be different if we followed what is laid here?

5. Who are we serving always? How does this change things?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord Jesus for the relationships He has given you at home, at work, and in your social settings.

\*Ask the Lord Jesus to show you what relationships in your life that He wants to transform.

\*Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and give the power to be a transforming agent in those relationships.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

There is a reframing of all human relationships found in these passages. In what ways is the Holy Spirit challenging you to bring the Kingdom values of Jesus into your relationships?