

LICC 3

Whatever we do

Col
3:15-25

Introduction

Today we continue to look at LICC Frontlines

The theme is **Whatever we do**

We are looking at our daily lives,

our work

our families

our hobbies

our church

And we do that via the passage that we just read

Example?

Within the Community

v15-17

In the first part of the reading Paul describes the attitude and actions of the Christian community

Actually, it is the end of a longer section

Starting with personal behaviors

and relational

moving to what community has to do together

Peace

v15

Paul starts with peace - the peace of Christ

Reminding them that this peace not only has to rule their hearts, but also the community - the body of Christ

Thankfulness

v15c, 16c,
17c

Out of peace comes thankfulness

All further exhortations are interwoven with an attitude of thankfulness

And be thankful

v15c

...with gratitude in your hearts

v16c

...giving thanks to the God the Father ...

v17c

What does the community do

Let the message of Christ dwell among you

inhabit the gospel

In our communities

How?

by teaching each other

by admonishing w wisdom

Through demonstrating our love for Jesus

with Psalms,

hymns and

songs from the Spirit

Key phrase: **Whatever you do, do it all in the name of Jesus**

Outside the community

Paul the moves to outside of the community

1. Marriage

v18-19

Standard: Wives submit to your husbands

Counter cultural (for their time): Husbands love your wives - do not be harsh!

2. Family

v20-21

Standard: Children: obey your parents

Counter cultural: Fathers do not embitter your children!

Note on culture

We may have moved on from the Roman/Jewish culture and patriarchal relationships

But love is paramount in all these relationships!

As it should be in our relationships

This would be another sermon!

3. Slaves (Work?)

v25

Standard: obey your earthly masters

Counter cultural

Do your work with sincerity of heart

Reverance of the Lord (Not the master!)

But not to make yourself look good!

Note 1 on Slavery

The masters are addressed in 4:1!

"Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven"

Also Counter Cultural!

Masters are not masterless

And will be held to account

Note 2 on Slavery

Slavery is abolished

We now get paid for our money, and can choose to end our employment

Which is easier said than done

As some of us may feel trapped in the situations we are in

Note on Work

However the attitude that Paul recommends

Also applies directly to our work ethos

Do we work to favour our bosses/managers/shareholders/families

Or do we work to revere God?

Key phrase: **Whatever you do, work at it with all of your heart**

Not to favour human masters, friends, family or other relations, pastors, elders,

But work for the Lord

as God will reward you fully

Not as human masters can

But with an inheritance of Christ, which is eternal live and love

Final warning

²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

We are all accountable to God

And none are favoured

If we do wrong we will have to account for it

We will be forgiven - if we recognise that we need forgiveness!

Key take aways

Whatever you do, do it all in the name of Jesus

Whatever you do, work at it with all of your heart

Bring symbols of your frontlines to the communion table

Pray the prayer together