



**COLOSSIANS:  
SATISFIED IN CHRIST**  
An interactive Bible study for  
individuals, families,  
and LIFE Groups

~Week Five~  
"Home Improvement"  
Colossians 3:20-21

**Welcome** to UPC's study of the book of Colossians entitled "Satisfied in Christ." These weekly lessons are coordinated with the Sunday sermons at UPC. On Sunday morning you will hear a sermon on a selection from Colossians. That week's study guide will focus on the NEXT section in the book of Colossians. If you miss a sermon, you can always listen to it online at [www.upc-orlando.com](http://www.upc-orlando.com).

**WARM UP**

In this lesson we will be learning how easily parents can discourage their children. But before we go there, try this exercise: Make a list of as many things as you can think of that (a) discourage you, and (b) encourage you. You have *one minute* to make your list, so write fast . . .

Things that discourage me: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Things that encourage me: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**RECALL – Colossians 3:18-19**

The Sunday sermon this week was about marriage. Husbands and wives have a wonderful, but challenging, opportunity – to show the world how much Jesus loves the church.

a) What does it mean for a wife to "submit" to her husband (Col. 3:18)? Rather than giving an abstract definition, share what you feel a wife's submission really *looks like*.

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b) What does it mean for a husband to "love" his wife (Col. 3:19)? Again, be concrete: What does a loving husband *look like*?

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\_\_\_\_\_

c) How are these directives for married men and women counter-cultural?

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\_\_\_\_\_

d) In what ways does Ephesians 5:21 add to your understanding of Colossians 3:18-19?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

e) Where does the motivation come from for husbands and wives to carry out these directives for marriage?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

f) Share something you found particularly interesting, encouraging, convicting, or relevant in Sunday's sermon.

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**REFLECT – Colossians 3:20-21**

Paul’s directives for the family continue with words addressed specifically to children and fathers (and by implication, all parents). While you may not be a parent, God’s Word applies to any relationship in which authority is exercised and obedience required.

- a) List as many reasons as you can that children ought to obey their parents. (You might check out Exodus 20:12, Proverbs 2, and Ephesians 6:1-3.)

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- b) Paul says children should obey their parents “in everything” (Col. 3:20). What qualifiers, if any, would you add to Paul’s statement? Can you find a Biblical basis for those qualifiers? (See, for instance, Acts 4:19.)

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- c) Why do you think Paul only addresses *fathers* in Col. 3:21?

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- d) Fathers are here told not to “embitter” their children. Synonyms for this word include “aggravate,” “provoke,” and “irritate.” Give some examples of things that parents do to embitter their kids:

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- e) Paint a word picture of a parent that encourages his or her children. What are his or her behaviors and attitudes?

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- f) Where does the motivation come from for children and parents to carry out the directives in this passage of Scripture?

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**RESPOND**

- a) If you are a parent, look over the list of things you wrote in (d) on the previous page, and write down those you struggle with. (If you are not a parent, write down the ones that describe how you sometimes treat other people.)

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- b) If you have living parents, think through the implications of Col. 3:20 for yourself. How would you evaluate your relationship with your parents? Is there need for improvement in honoring and serving them?

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- c) What has God put on your heart through this week’s study? Share it below and ask someone to pray for you to respond to God’s tug.

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Blessed Lord, open our ears to hear what you say and our eyes to see as you see. Give us hearts to beat in sympathy with yours at the sight of every little child; and above all, our Lord, to understand and experience how surely and how blessedly you fulfill your promise, "Whoever receives one such little child in my name receives me."  
(Andrew Murray)