

Life in the Fast Lane

Studies in Colossians

Riding Shotgun

Introduction to Colossians 3-4

In the Old West, the one who sat next to the driver "rode shotgun", armed and ready to protect the stage and its contents from potential problems. This parallels our Christian walk: Jesus is the Driver, but we get to "ride shotgun" with Him. While He takes us to the place we need to be, we must partner with Him in reaching the destination. In Colossians 3-4 we find three aspects of "riding shotgun". First, we must focus on our individual spiritual maturity if we are to bless others' lives effectively. The starting point for this is to "set our minds on things above, where Christ is". Our focus must be on Christ and on His way of life, a way that contrasts with the earthly approach to thinking and acting. As we do this we will recognize two things that must occur personally. One, by real-

izing that the old nature that controlled us no longer has authority in our lives, we must put aside the old earthly way of doing things, and then clothe ourselves with Christ's mindset and way of life. This is a life primarily characterized by love, with all its fruits. We are able to transact this new way of living by letting Christ's word richly abide in us and seeking to do everything in His Name. With this maturity, the next aspect of "riding shotgun" is to flesh out love in our everyday relationships. Husbands are to love wives without bitterness, enabling their wives to be subject to their loving leadership. Rather than exasperating their children, fathers are to love them, and children are to express love to their



The fastest way to fulfillment in life is to follow Jesus.

parents through obedience. Employers and employees are to lovingly relate to each other by recognizing that both of them answer to the Lord Christ, the ultimate "Boss". Finally, Christians are to partner with Christ by valuing their church relationships. We must pray for one another and our ministries, communicate and encourage one another if Christ's kingdom is to continue its advance. After all, we are "riding shotgun" with Him.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

Study/Discussion Questions for Colossians 3-4

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources)

1. Read 3:1-4. What personal responsibility do we have (v1, 2), and what is the basis for this (v1, 3)? What can we expect if we fulfill this responsibility (v4), and what does this mean?

2. From 3:5-7 list the sins (v5), and God's reaction to them (v6). What was the believer's relationship to these sins before they believed (v7), and since they believed (v5)? Apply this.

3. In 3:8-11 what other sins are named (v8, 9), and what is the believer to do with them (v8, 9)? What must believers do to overcome these sins (v10-11)? How does this occur (v10-11)?

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Colossians 3-4 Study Questions (cont)

4. Using 3:12-15 what is true of believers (v12), and in what kind of heart should this result (v12-13, 15)? What is the connection between the two? What is the ultimate bond of unity (v14)? Why?	
5. Based on 3:16-17 how should believers specifically relate to Christ (v16, 17)? How can we do this? How should this affect our relationships with each other (v16)?	
6. From 3:18-21 how should wives and husbands interact (v18-19), and why (v18)? What temptation must husbands avoid (v19)? How should children and parents interact (v20-21), and why (v20, 21), and what must fathers avoid (v21)?	
7. According to 3:22-4:1 how should employees and employers interact (v22, 4:1), what is the overall principle that this follows (v23), and what promise does this carry (v24-25)?	
8. Read 4:2-6. What action is vitally important for us to support one another in the church (v2, 3-4), and what should characterize it (v2)? How should we relate to those outside the church in our walk (v5) and our talk (v6)?	
9. In 4:7-10 who was Paul sending to the Colossian (v7, 9), and why (v8-9)? Why do you think Paul considered this to be encouraging, and how can we apply that?	
10. From 4:11-18 list the people that were associates of Paul while he was in prison (v10, 11, 12, 14)? What do you think Paul's attitude about them was (v10-14)? Who else was he concerned about (v15-17)? How can we follow his example?	
11. Write some specific actions you can take to develop your individual spiritual maturity (3:1-17), your everyday relationships (3:18-4:1), and your relationships in your church family (4:2-18).	

Scripture to Remember

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving.”
Colossians 4:2

Celebration Fellowship

*Reaching—
Restoring—Raising Up*

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Life Group Questions

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Share about a time that you were deceived—buying something, or at school or work, at church or home, etc. Why is it so easy to be deceived?
2. What do deceivers look like in everyday life, and why are they so dangerous? What are some of the voices of deception we encounter regularly?
3. What does it mean “the root determines the fruit, and the fruit reveals the root”? How can we apply that personally, as well as to those around us?
4. Review the three ways to evaluate religious teachers—handling the Word, money, and power. Talk about ways deceivers abuse all three of these.
5. Discuss some ways to maintain a balance between openness to others and being alert for possible deception.
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the message today if you have time.