

# CRACKING THE CODE PART 2

## —CHRISTUS VICTOR WEEK 23—

*Colossians 3:18-4:1 (NIV)*

### I. WIVES AND HUSBANDS

<sup>18</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands,  
as is fitting in the Lord.

<sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives  
and do not be harsh with them.

### II. CHILDREN AND PARENTS

<sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything,  
for this pleases the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children,  
or they will become discouraged.

### III. SLAVES AND MASTERS

<sup>22</sup> Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything;  
and do it, not only when their eye is on you  
and to curry their favor,  
but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.

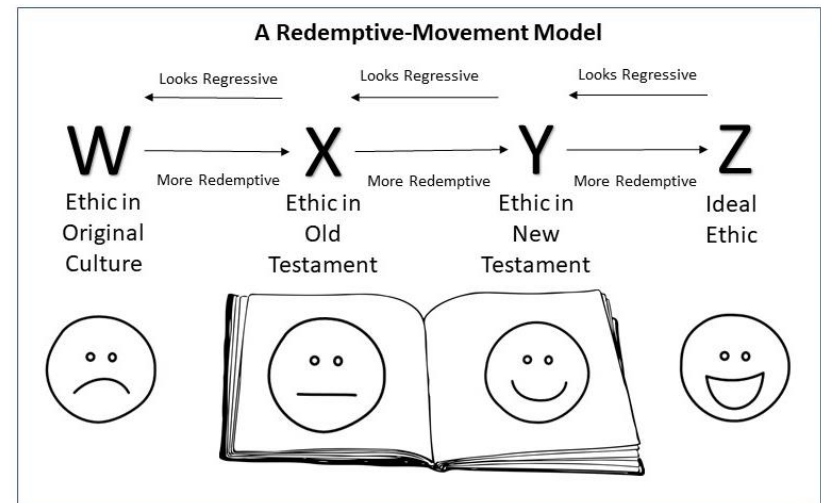
<sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,  
as working for the Lord, not for human masters,

<sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance  
from the Lord as a reward.

It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

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

<sup>4:1</sup> Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair,  
because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.



**X passages referenced:** Num 31:17; Deut 21:10-14; 22:28-29; 22:25; 22:13-21; Num 5:11-15.

**Y passages referenced:** Mark 10:10-12; Luke 10:38-42; Acts 18:24-26; Rom 16:3-5; 16:1-2; 16:7; Col 4:15; Gal 3:26; 1 Cor 7:1-4; 11:5-6; 14:34-35; Col 3:18-19; 1 Tim 2:11-15.

### THE BOTTOM LINE

\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ is not as \_\_\_\_\_ as it appears once we  
realize God was \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ toward an \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ breaks \_\_\_\_\_!

### On the Presence of Ancient Ethics in Colossians 3:18-4:1

Whether all this meant a greater conformity to structures which ought to have been more radically questioned, too much compromise with conservative social tradition..., with what might now be described as “conventional middle-class morality”..., or even an increasing “paganizing” of the Christian ethic..., is certainly arguable. In the choice between revolution and transformation from within, Christianity chose the second; though we always need to bear in mind the powerlessness of such small groups within the pervasiveness of Hellenistic culture and under the imperial might of Rome. Christianity certainly did not adopt more radical critiques of society (like the Cynics), or abandon society (like the Qumran Essenes), or pursue utopian dreams by encouraging slave rebellions, all of which could have resulted in the demise of Christianity within a few generations. No program for a new society was drawn up, not even one for the kingdom of God on earth. Instead Christianity recognized that it had [by necessity] to live with an inevitably flawed and imperfect society and sought to live and witness within that society by combining that society’s proven wisdom with commitment to its own Lord and the transforming power of the love which he had embodied... (Dunn, *Colossians*, 246).