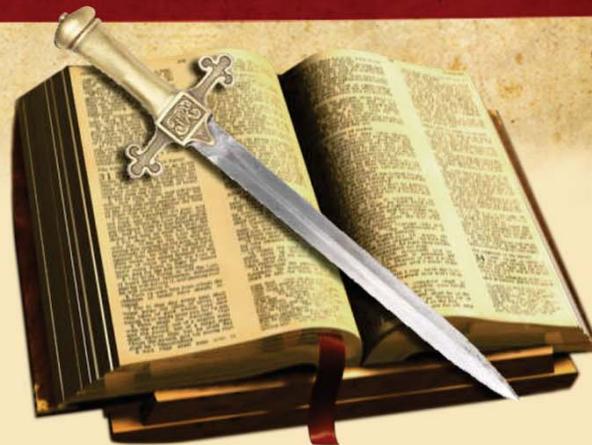


Setting Your Heart

on the

Kingdom



COLOSSIANS

The Hardest Thing for Christians to Do!

(The Principle of: Personal Maturity)

Colossians 3:18-24

When he walked into the house, a dark cloud followed him. Frustrated by complaints and financial problems at the office, he didn't feel like talking to anyone. Stepping over toys scattered in the living room, he made his way to the kitchen. It was a wreck! Dirty dishes in the sink and food left on the cabinets. Chaotic sounds were coming from upstairs...rap music blaring from his teenager's room, arguments raging between his daughters, and the baby crying. Aggravated beyond measure, he hollered for his wife. *"What's going on here!"* he snapped. *"Why can't you control these kids?"* Looking like a whipped puppy, she burst into tears. *"I can't handle it anymore,"* she sobbed. *"I work just as hard as you do!"* *Standing to her feet she blurted out, "You're supposed to be a pastor! Where's your love and understanding?"*

Anyone can have a bad day. But if this scene becomes the rule rather than the exception, it's an obvious lack of Christian maturity. It's easy to talk a good game, even to quote scripture and preach at others. But living it out is an entirely different matter. *(We're talking about your Christian witness, not trying to earn salvation.)* The Kingdom of God is more than theory; it is practical Christianity lived out in everyday life. It's more than carrying a Bible to church or wearing a sanctified look on your face. *It's personal maturity in your "unguarded" moments...especially when you don't think others are watching. Practicing Christianity at home and at work...that's the hardest thing for Christians to do!*

Wives, only a mature woman can honor the godly authority in her husband, especially when he doesn't show it. Husbands, it takes a mature man to override his feelings and show love and consideration instead of frustration. Children, the more mature you become, the more you'll obey your parents. Fathers, your children will see your maturity when you correct them in patience, not in anger. And employees, your Christian maturity is evident in your godly work ethic, not in being men-pleasers. Easy to say, but hard to do! *God's Kingdom influences every area of life. But if you're going to be an effective witness, it must bear fruit in the most difficult kingdoms of all...at home and at work!*

Next: The Kingdom of God in 1 Thessalonians - When Satan Thwarts You!

