

Serving An Extraordinary Lord In Ordinary Life (Colossians 3:18-4:1)

I. Serve Christ by Serving Your Spouse: *“Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”*¹⁹ *Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.”* (vv. 18-19)

II. Serve Christ by Serving Your Family: *“Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.”*²¹ *Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”* (vv. 20-21)

III. Serve Christ by Serving Your Co-Workers: *“Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.”*²³ *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,*²⁴ *knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”*²⁵ *For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. 4:1 Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.”*

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week’s sermon? What didn’t you understand?
2. In what areas do you think Christians struggle to see the relevance of their faith (e.g. business, the arts, sports, etc.)? Why do you think this is the case?

For Further Thought and Discussion:

3. In verse 17, Paul exhorts believers to do everything, “in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through him.” What do you think this means? How does this verse establish a framework what follows in 3:18-4:1?
4. Paul addresses three groups; husbands and wives (vv. 18-19), parents and children (vv. 20-21), and slaves and masters (3:22-4:1). Why does he address these groups? How does his teaching on these relationships differ from the moralists of his day?
5. In what ways does Paul subvert and redefine the slave/master relationship (see 3:11; 3:22-4:1)?
6. Paul calls us to serve Christ in marriage, with family, and at work. In which of these areas do you feel most convicted to serve him? How will you serve *in response* to him, rather than *in reaction* to your spouse/child/parent/co-worker/boss?

7. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?