

WORD

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

COLOSSIANS 3:17

As the Apostle Paul continued his letter to the church in Colossae, he gave practical guidelines and principles for immediate application. Everything we say and do, as Christians, is for God's glory and honor. We are to live in light of who Christ is, what He has done for us, and who we are in Him now. In this lesson, we will look at the practical application of living for God in our relationships and household through the key relationships of a husband and a wife, parents and a child, and a worker and a master.

1 Love and Submission

¹⁸*Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

¹⁹*Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.*

COLOSSIANS 3:18,19

Marriage is a covenant instituted by God between a man and a woman. In this covenant, a man is to love his wife as Jesus loves the church (Ephesians 5:25), and a woman is to submit to and respect her husband (Ephesians 5:33). Why do you think the Apostle Paul commands husbands not to be harsh with their wives? Why do you think he commands wives to submit in light of what is fitting in the Lord?

2 Obedience and Encouragement

²⁰*Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.* ²¹*Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.* **COLOSSIANS 3:20,21**

Just as children are to obey their parents, fathers are to encourage their children. This is done ultimately to please God, and not our family members or loved ones. We love because we have experienced God's unconditional love. According to these verses, what pleases the Lord? What causes discouragement?

3 Excellence and the Fear of the Lord

²²*Bondservants, 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.* **COLOSSIANS 3:22-24**

(Read also **COLOSSIANS 3:25-4:1.**)

Though in the time of the Colossian church slaves and bondservants existed and we are privileged to be free, these principles of working heartily and serving Christ still apply. In everything we do, as Christians, we desire for God to be glorified. We know He is the one we want to serve and please, and we work excellently in light of who He is. How are workers supposed to do their jobs? How are masters supposed to treat their workers?
