

Final – ‘All In’ – Go All In on the Life God Offers | **God’s Glory – Our Good – Our Unity – Our Witness**  
Paul has been working us through a spiritual stratosphere in the previous paragraphs...

- Setting our minds on things above; putting on attributes of Christ...not giving an out ‘whatever’ Paul is bringing it home...literally – Three pairs of relationships: Marriage – Parenting – Employment  
**Big Idea – Having a Renewed Life in Christ Means Having a Gospel Centered Home**

Can I be transparent? This is the most difficult subject for me to speak on...Why?

- Not because of culture...Not because of ‘submission’...or even ‘slaves’ – Text today
- **Most opportunity for failure...CADEN JUKED | Can we all agree we’re not perfect in this one?**

If we’re not ‘all in’ at home with the love of Jesus & Truth of His Word...never ‘all in’ anywhere else  
God’s grace results in changes within the home: Marriage – Parenting – Employment | **READ 3:18-4:1**  
Today’s text is not about power, but about demonstrating love.

Paul addresses 3 pairs of relationships: Men & Women - Parents & Children, Masters & Bondservants  
Members of the Christian household in first century Rome...equal value with different responsibilities

**Basis = (18) Fitting the Lord | (20) Pleases the Lord | (22) Fearing the Lord | (23) As for the Lord  
(24) From the Lord...Serving the Lord | (4:1) Master in Heaven**

7 times – The Lord is cited...foundation/reason we fight for these conducts | **Gospel Centered Homes**

### 1. Honor the Lord in your marriage (18-19)

V. 18... unpopular | **Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord** Degrade | Min | Misogyny...no  
Bible teaches – Equal in value and worth and different in roles and responsibilities

May we never confuse *Function* and *Worth* | Function and worth are not synonymous...different

‘Wives submit to your husbands’ = Not universal | **To women...get out your wives’ verse | Hold | Own**  
Submission’s not: Spineless Consent | Degrading Humiliation | Demeaning Servitude | Passive Resignation  
Submission is: joyful, willful, yielding to your husband that honors and affirms his leadership

‘submit as fitting the Lord’ – Submit in a way that goes hand in hand with who you are as a Christian  
**John 6:38** ‘For I have come down from Heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of Him...sent me’

- **When people see you...can they see Jesus in your wifehood?**

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

This love is not concerned with power – control – authority – rights | **My wife is unlovable...peach**  
It’s about: Serving your wife...not being served | Supporting...not superiority | Leading...not lording

JD Greear - ‘Spiritual leadership is not a license to do what you want to do, but empowerment to do  
what you ought to do’

‘Do not be harsh with them’ – Wholeheartedly...tenderly | **NOT BECAUSE YOU’LL BE REWARDED**

**DANCE PARTNER – VIDEO** – Successful family relationships are based on love & respect | Joyful Unity  
Romantic love may lead to marriage, will not sustain...move on to a sacrificial love for one another

### 2. Please the Lord in your family (v20-21)

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers do not provoke your children,  
lest they become discouraged. Two directives go hand in hand...Children obeying and parents nurturing

- Children - Primary motive for obeying your parents is not to please *them* . . . please the *Lord*  
**You don’t want to obey ...They’re clueless, or you don’t like them | Obey them to please the Lord**

Fathers don’t provoke your child, lest they become discouraged Exasperate, drive anger, hate, resentment  
We do this as parents when we . . .Constantly reprimand/criticize/ ignore/punish

- Produces self-hatred or self-assertion - Either way, provoke them to sin & risks discouragement

**The way we guard against that is by being intentional about nurturing them (grow, develop)**

### 5 Guidelines to Nurture Your Child

1. **Affirm them early and often** - Not constantly critical; Do your kids think they can never please you?
2. **Establish boundaries** - They want to know the limits of behaviors | Boundaries bring security
3. **Teach principles, not rules** - Principles teach them to think for themselves
  - Let them fail at applying them – failure is often the best teacher
4. **Discipline Intentionally** - Follow through established boundaries; Discipline rebellion, not accidents
5. **Let them be kids** - Give age-appropriate freedoms; Don’t be parent out of fear

**Gospel Centered Homes: Honor the Lord in their Marriage | Please the Lord in their Family**

### 3. Serve the Lord in your workplace (v 3:22-4:1) – Worst Chapter Break Ever

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. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

- Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.
- Slavery in the Bible was not based exclusively on race...not enslaved because nationality/skin.
- Bible times, slavery was based more on economics; was a matter of social status.
  - People sold themselves when they could not pay their debts or provide for their families.
- NT times, times doctors, lawyers, politicians chose to be slaves needs provided for by masters.  
**Important to understand – This passage does NOT imply that slavery is okay...vamp (GOSPEL)**

**While slavery has been abolished in our culture, some principles that still apply in our workplaces**

If Christian slaves in the worst of situations were expected to live by these guidelines. . .

How much more should you and I do so, regardless of our circumstances?

- **Employees, serve the Lord by showing integrity and hard work in your job**  
**You either need to continue showing integrity and strong work ethic Or you need to start – simple**
- **24 – You are serving the Lord Christ** - In your work, Christian, you are serving the *Lord* first & foremost
- People rationalize dishonesty, petty theft, lack of productivity, shoddy work . . .
- They’re mistreated, company afford, boss pompous incompetent, everybody’s doing it

**But before you’re quick to exempt yourself, let’s do a little self-assessment**

#### Lord Serving Work-Life Evaluation

1. Do I work the same way with my boss absent as I do when they’re present?

- **22 – Genuine servants of the Lord are not people-pleasers, working just to be noticed**

2. Do I work grudgingly, or with a good attitude?

- **22 – obey in everything with sincerity of heart** – integrity
- **22 – fearing the Lord** – showing him reverence/respect (you wear his name)

3. Do I do just what it takes to get by, or do I give a 100% all the time?

- **23 – work heartily** – do everything with your whole heart
- **23 – as for the Lord and not for men (Is the way you work a winsome witness?)**

4. Am I motivated more by money or by my relationship with Jesus?

- **24 – from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward**

Inheritance your salvation – personal relationship with Jesus that brings life to the full and life forever  
If your boss is a Jewish carpenter, then you better act like it every day w/ 100% effort

**The second principle has to do with those who are responsible for the work of others**

- Employers/Managers serve the Lord by treating people justly and fairly
- **1 – treat your bondservants justly and fairly**
- Justly and fairly don’t always mean nice - Mean giving what is legitimately deserved
  - Rewarding good work; Reprimanding poor work; Firing if necessary
- Mean’s telling them what you expect before you judge their performance
- Mean’s taking their life circumstances into account
- Mean’s treating them like you would like to be treated

**Reason for this kind of fair and just treatment . . .**

- The Lord will have the last say - You WILL be held accountable for how you treat your people  
**You can’t treat people like disposable property and expect God to excuse or bless it**  
**Genuinely love them and care about them, and show it**

Three greatest opportunities for failure...three greatest opportunities for the Gospel!

- All In...All the time = Go all in on the Life God Offers You!

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