

SERMON NOTES:

Series: Colossians – Christ Above All | Part 5: The Extra-Ordinary Life of a Christian

Theme of Colossians: The absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ as the Head of all creation and of the Church.

Colossians 3:18-25, 4:1 (NLT) Instructions for Christian Households

¹⁸ Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord.

¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.

²⁰ Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged.

²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. ²³ Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. ²⁴ Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ. ²⁵ But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites.

¹ Masters, be just and fair to your slaves. Remember that you also have a Master—in heaven.

“If our faith doesn’t work at home, our faith doesn’t work.”

Paul expected that people be Christianly in the one place where they are truly themselves – home.

Nowhere is it more crucial that we put our beliefs into practice and on display than in the home.

William Barclay “Under Jewish law a woman was a thing; she was the possession of her husband, just as much as his house or his flocks or his material goods were. She had no legal right whatever. For instance, under Jewish Law, a husband could divorce his wife for any cause, while a wife had no rights whatever in the initiation of a divorce. In Greek society a respectable woman lived a life of entire seclusion. She never appeared on the streets alone, not even to go marketing. She lived in the women’s apartments and did not join her menfolk even for meals. From here there was demanded complete servitude and chastity; but her husband could go out as much as he chose, and could enter into as many relationships outside marriage as he liked and incur no stigma. Both under Jewish and Greek laws and custom, all the privileges belonged to the husband, and all the duties to the wife.”

F.F. Bruce [Paul] *“does hold that there is a divine instituted hierarchy in the order of creation, and in this order the place of the wife comes next after her husband.”*

Warren W. Wiersbe *“We must not think of submission as “slavery” or “subjugation.” The word comes from the military vocabulary and simply means “to arrange under rank.” The fact that one soldier is a private and another is a colonel does not mean that one man is necessarily better than the other. It only means that they have different ranks.”*

Warren W. Wiersbe *“Headship is not dictatorship or lordship. It is loving leadership. In fact, the husband and the wife must be submitted to the Lord and to each other (Ephesians 5:21). It is a mutual respect under the lordship of Jesus Christ.”*

Ephesians 5:25 (NLT)

²⁵ For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word.

Karl Barth *“If one has lived in America and seen in countless cases what injustice is done to children, one has enough of it. One sees too much that someone, hidden behind misunderstood psychoanalytical maxims, allows them to become little tyrants and ill-humored despots, despots whom adults crawl in front of for pure convenience, only to get peace; and one sees how this takes effect in the unfortunate adolescents when they, brought up without authority are confronted with the difficulties of life.”*

Ephesians 6:1-3 (NLT)

¹ Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. ² “Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise: ³ If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”

Ephesians 6:1-3 (NLT)

⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

1. **We must dedicate our homes to the Lord** (3:18-4:1)
 - a. We must submit to his leadership
 - b. We must serve with his love
2. **We can dwell with harmony in the Lord** (3:18-4:1)
 - a. Wives should respectfully lift up their husbands (3:18)
 - b. Husbands should sacrificially love their wives (3:19)
 - c. Children should humbly listen to their parents (3:20)
 - d. Parents should faithfully lead their children (3:21)
 - e. Believers should diligently labor for their Master (3:22-4:1)

Colossians 4:2-6 (NLT) An Encouragement for Prayer

² Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. ³ Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. ⁴ Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.

⁵ Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

1. **We are to pray for witnessing opportunities** (4:2-4)
 - a. God will open the doors (4:2-3)
 - b. God will open our hearts (4:3-4)
2. **We are to pray for wisdom in opportunities** (4:4-6)

- a. We must be wise in our speech (4:4-5)
- b. We must be wise to our surroundings (4:5-6)
- 3. Points of application: (4:5-6)
 - a. **We cannot be argumentative**
 - i. We can compel, but we ultimately cannot convince.
 - ii. We can contend, but we ultimately cannot convict.
 - b. **We cannot be ashamed**
 - i. The testimony of our lives must show the gospel
 - ii. The testimony of our love must spread the gospel
 - iii. The testimony of our lips must share the gospel

Colossians 4:7-16 (NLT) Paul's Final Instructions and Greetings

⁷Tychicus will give you a full report about how I am getting along. He is a beloved brother and faithful helper who serves with me in the Lord's work. ⁸I have sent him to you for this very purpose—to let you know how we are doing and to encourage you. ⁹I am also sending Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, one of your own people. He and Tychicus will tell you everything that's happening here.

¹⁰Aristarchus, who is in prison with me, sends you his greetings, and so does Mark, Barnabas's cousin. As you were instructed before, make Mark welcome if he comes your way. ¹¹Jesus (the one we call Justus) also sends his greetings. These are the only Jewish believers among my co-workers; they are working with me here for the Kingdom of God. And what a comfort they have been!

¹²Epaphras, a member of your own fellowship and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. He always prays earnestly for you, asking God to make you strong and perfect, fully confident that you are following the whole will of God. ¹³I can assure you that he prays hard for you and also for the believers in Laodicea and Hierapolis.

¹⁴Luke, the beloved doctor, sends his greetings, and so does Demas. ¹⁵Please give my greetings to our brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church that meets in her house.

¹⁶After you have read this letter, pass it on to the church at Laodicea so they can read it, too. And you should read the letter I wrote to them.

¹⁷And say to Archippus, "Be sure to carry out the ministry the Lord gave you."

¹⁸HERE IS MY GREETING IN MY OWN HANDWRITING—PAUL.

Remember my chains.

May God's grace be with you.

1. **We should enlist others to serve Christ (4:7-9)**
 - a. Enlist others to be ministers of Christ (4:7-9)
 - b. Enlist others to be messengers for Christ (4:8-9)
2. **We should encourage others to serve Christ (4:10-14)**
 - a. We must support one another (4:10-14)

- b. We must strengthen one another (4:12-14)
- 3. We should empower others to serve Christ (4:15-18)**
 - a. We must be faithful to the ministry of the church (4:15-16)
 - b. We must fulfill the ministry of our calling (4:17-18)