

## Christ Over All Our Relationships Colossians 3:23-25

“Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. 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. Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here. Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. And say to Archippus, “See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.” I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.”  
**Colossians 3:18-4:18**

### Relationships Where Jesus Must Be In Charge:

- Wives and Husbands (Colossians 3:18-19)
- Children and Parents (Colossians 3:20-21)
- Servants and Masters (Colossians 3:22, 4:1)
- Disciples and Outsiders (Colossians 4:5-6)
- Disciples to One Another (Colossians 4:7-18)

### Jesus is In Charge of All My Relational Connections

#### I. Relationships Must Be Rooted in Christ Jesus Colossians 3:23a

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord...”

“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**

#### I. Relationships Must Not Be Purely Transactional Colossians 3:23b

“...and not for men.”

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” **John 15:12**

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.” **1 Peter 3:8-9**

#### II. God Keeps the Records on Relationships

“Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. <sup>25</sup>For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.” **Colossians 3:24-25**

“And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and Prophets.’”  
**Matthew 22:35-40**

#### Relationship with God

#### Relationship with Others

**Opening:** “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.” **Colossians 1:1-2**

**Closing:** “I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.” **Colossians 4:18**

#### Sources & Further Reading Opportunities

- *Lexham Context Commentary: New Testament* – Douglas Mangum (2020)
- *New Bible Commentary: Colossians* – Peter T. O’Brien (1994)
- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *CSB Study Bible* – Trevin Wax (2017)
- *Tony Evans Book of Illustrations* – Tony Evans (2009)