

## Rooted In Relationships

*Rooted | Part 4 | Colossians 3:18-21*

### INTRODUCTION

If you've lived in the South for any amount of time, you've probably encountered a plant called kudzu. This plant was originally brought to America from Asia to help with erosion back in the 1930s because it grows extremely fast, up to one foot a day. At first, it looks totally innocent, just a few leafy vines growing along the side of the road. But give it time, and it will take over everything. Trees, power lines, abandoned cars...if something remains still long enough, kudzu will completely cover it. But as frustrating as kudzu is, it teaches us something profound about relationships. Like kudzu, our lives are always growing, connecting, wrapping, and intertwining with other people. Relationships are either growing healthier, or they're growing out of control. And here's the truth Paul shows us in Colossians 3: the quality of your relationships reveals the roots of your discipleship. If your life is rooted in Christ, it will show up most clearly in your relationships.

### KEY POINTS

#### 1. Wives – Submit in a Way That Honors the Lord

The word submit (hupotassō) means to voluntarily place oneself under leadership, not out of weakness, but out of strength. It is a military term referring to order and cooperation, not inferiority. Paul is not giving men a license to control; he is inviting women to reflect Christ by trusting God's design for the home.

Biblical submission is not about being silenced or sidelined. It is about spiritual partnership. Submission works best when both husband and wife are fully submitted to Christ. When that happens, submission becomes a blessing, not a burden. It is a picture of worship that says, "Lord, I trust Your way, even when it stretches me."

#### 2. Husbands – Love in the Way That Jesus Loves

Paul uses the word agapaō, which describes a deep, sacrificial, Christlike love. This is the same love Jesus showed when He washed His disciples' feet and walked willingly to the cross. Love is not just a noun; it is a verb. Christ didn't just feel love. He demonstrated it.

### NOTES

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Paul warns husbands against bitterness, which grows like kudzu in the soil of a marriage. Unspoken frustration and unresolved conflict can choke the joy out of a home. A Christlike husband doesn't demand submission; he demonstrates sacrifice. This kind of love doesn't come naturally. It must be rooted in Christ. Alignment with Jesus keeps the marriage moving forward together.

### 3. Children – Obey in a Way That Pleases the Lord

Obedience is not just about following rules; it's about learning to live under authority in a way that honors God. Children who learn obedience are being trained to obey their Heavenly Father.

Just like a young tree needs support while it grows, children need guidance early on so they can stand strong later. Obedience leads to blessing, stability, and spiritual maturity. When children obey with the right attitude, they are not just pleasing their parents; they are pleasing the Lord.

### 4. Fathers – Discipline in a Way That Builds Relationship

To exasperate means to provoke or push so hard that a child feels like they can never measure up. In a culture where Roman fathers ruled with absolute authority, Paul introduces a radically different approach: grace.

Discouraged kids often become distant adults. Rules without relationship lead to rebellion. Discipline must be wrapped in compassion, reflecting the heart of our Heavenly Father. God's correction is never condemnation. His goal is restoration. Fathers are called to lead with strength, humility, and grace so their children can see the gospel lived out at home.

## NOTES

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**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. How do your closest relationships reveal what your life is truly rooted in?
2. Which role (spouse, parent, or child) do you feel most challenged to reflect Christ in right now?
3. What is one practical way you can re-root your relationships more deeply in Christ this week?

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