



Jesus Is.

The background is a deep blue with a collage of faint, semi-transparent religious icons. These include a crown of thorns, a cross, a dove, a heart, and other symbolic elements. The text is centered in a white, serif font.

Jesus is Lord of All Our Relationships

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Two things to keep in mind:

1. 1st Century Asian Minor in the Roman Empire does not equal 21st Century Quincy, WA.

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1. 1st Century Asian Minor in the Roman Empire does not equal 21st Century Quincy, WA.
2. Paul has never met these Christians recently converted from paganism.

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²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created human beings in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

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NLT

Genesis 1:26–28

²⁸ Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

¹⁶ Then he said to the woman,

“I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy,
and in pain you will give birth.

And you will desire to control your husband,
but he will rule over you.”

Greco-Roman Household Codes

Aristotle addressed:

Husbands & Wives
Fathers & Children
Masters & Slaves

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Husbands & Wives

Aristotle said:

“The male is by nature superior, and the female inferior; the one rules and the other is ruled. This inequality is permanent and established by nature.”

(Politics 1.1254b)

“The courage of a man is shown in commanding, of a woman in obeying. The one is the ruler, the other the ruled.” (Politics 1.1260a)

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Fathers & Children

Aristotle said:

“The relation of male to female is naturally that of superior to inferior, and of ruler to ruled; and the same rule holds good of all human beings generally.” (Politics 1.1259b)

“The father is ruler over children, the husband over wife.”
(Politics 1.1259a)

“The child is not a ruler, but he is to be ruled.” (Politics 1.1260a)

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Masters & Slaves

Aristotle said:

“A slave is a living tool, just as a tool is an inanimate slave.” (Politics 1.1253b)

“For he who can be, and therefore is, another’s [slave], and he who participates in reason so far as to apprehend it but not to possess it, is a slave by nature.” (Politics 1.1254b)

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“It is clear then that some men are by nature free, and others slaves, and that for these latter slavery is both expedient and right.” (Politics 1.1255a)

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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.

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Colossians 3:18–4:1

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

Husbands & Wives

- Aristotle said “The male is by nature superior, and the female inferior; the one rules, the other is ruled.” Marriage framed as natural hierarchy; husband holds authority by nature.
- Paul says...Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.”

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Fathers & Children

- Aristotle says that the Father rules the household by nature; children are to obey unquestioningly; emphasis on father's authority. Dad says jump and you say how high.
- Paul says, "Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged."

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Masters & Slaves

- Aristotle says the Master is naturally ruler; slave is “a living tool”; slavery is justified as natural and necessary. In fact, slaves don’t even have full capabilities of reason.
- Paul says, “Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything... with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord... It is the Lord Christ you are serving...Masters, be just and fair to your slaves. Remember that you also have a Master in heaven.”

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“Paul takes the standard ‘household code’ and reshapes it around the Messiah. Instead of reinforcing hierarchy, he quietly undermines it by insisting that all relationships are lived out in the Lord.”

- N.T. Wright

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1. In Marriage: Is Christ Lord of your marriage? Do your words build your spouse up? Do you lay down your life for one another, or do you try to “win” against each other?

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2. In Parenting: Do we parent in a way that encourages our kids' faith, or do we embitter and discourage them? Do we remember that our children are not "ours to control" but God's to nurture?

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3. In Workplaces: Do we treat employees, coworkers, or classmates as people to be used, or as people made in the image of God? If you're in leadership, do you lead like Christ — with fairness, justice, and humility?

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4. In Community: Do we play power games — in politics, in church committees, in sports leagues, even in families? Or do we live out Christlike humility, “submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ”?

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