

Chapter 3, if you haven't had a chance to go there yet, of course we'll have the verses up here on the screen as well for you today. And it's been an awesome adventure here in [Colossians](#). We will conclude this chapter, and after that we'll have one more. And we'll be through with the book of [Colossians](#).

You know it's been great. As it had so many of you guys come to me and just tell me on the side how this book and the study of this book has been impacting your life in a practical sense and in so many areas of your life. And you know what, that's the power of God's word. It's practical, it meets his right where we're at, and a book like [Colossians](#) certainly does that.

It's powerful. And the word of God is alive and powerful and it does. It transforms and changes lives. It equipses to be the people God wants to be and to teach us what to do in certain circumstances and situations.

And I know having gone through this again with you guys and I've been through this book many times in the past. Every time it's rich, I'm blessed. God always touches my heart and I'm so thankful again to get some feedback from some of you guys of how God's word is touching you as well. By the way, we do have our studies posted online or a website, avcalbr.org, if you miss one, here are there you can go and listen to the studies that are archived and keep in sync with what we're doing.

Well, join me now. In verse 18, and we'll look at verses 18 to 25, we'll just read through them first and we'll come back and actually dig this apart and go a little bit deeper for you guys. Beginning in verse 18, Paul the Apostle, as he was imprisoned by the way, in Rome at this point in time, it's probably around 62 AD. So he's in captivity.

He pins this by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Verse 18 says, Wives, submit your husbands as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord. Now you read a verse like that. It's hard to tell what some of the response could be in any given crowd.

That whole word, submit your husbands wives. Okay, we're going to look in context of what God is saying there. Now look what it says in verse 19. Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.

Verse 20, children, always obey your parents. For this pleases the Lord. Fathers do not aggravate your children or they will become discouraged. Verse 22 says, slaves, obey your earthly masters and 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. Work willingly at whatever you do. Because though you were working for the Lord rather than for people, remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward and that the master you are serving is Christ.

And Vanny verse 25 says this, but if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites. Let's pray one more time. Father in Jesus' name, as we turn our attention to the study of your word this morning, we begin trusting you to lead and direct us.

Give us clear insight to what you are telling us here. What it means now historically, but Father, how it applies to our lives today. And Father, we can see clearly in these

verses that the heart of what is being talked about here is relationships. And Lord, we know that the most important thing in life is relationships.

First and foremost, a relationship with you. Then after that Lord, the marriage relationship, the family relationship, fathers and mothers, children and father, even work relationships where we work, those kinds of things, all of it Lord is important in our lives. And there's a reason why you brought this to our attention in your word. So again, this morning, speak to our hearts about the truth of your word.

Again that we may come away with a clear understanding, better equipped, deliver lives according to your word, empowered by your grace and your spirit in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen. Well, let's jump back in here.

I was 18 and as we begin this in prayer that I just gave, I truly felt impressed to emphasize the reality about relationships because that's what is in focus here. Would you agree with me that the most important thing in life when a boil is down to it is relationships? Absolutely. Who matters more?

What matters more than the people you love? And you care for your family members, the people you're closest to, right? That's the most important thing next to the most critical relationship that we should have and that is the relationship with the Lord God. With the Lord, with Jesus Christ, our personal Savior to know Him, to have that dynamic personal relationship.

And so what we see here as part of that dynamic relationship with Him that it flows into and affects our relationships in life, they're the most important thing. Now, before we jump into this, remember in the verses that we studied previous to this, the Paul was telling us that we have a new life in Christ that our real lives are hidden Christ that were to put off all those old things of the old sin nature. And we looked at that at the first part of this chapter. Then he told us how were to walk in the spirit and how were to interact within the body of Christ.

Do you remember that? Let's look at verses 12 leading up to this again because if these verses in their context or critical is relates to relationship within the body of Christ, aren't these very critical as well to relationships with their family members and the people that were in relationship in the workplace even? Again, it says in verse 12, says, God chose you be the holy people He loves. You must clothe yourselves with tender-hearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember the Lord forgave you so you must forgive others above all. Clothe yourselves with love. Remember that's agape.

That's sacrificial. It's selfless love. It's thinking about others above ourselves. And this kind of love which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called live in peace and always be thankful. And last week we looked at verses 16 and 17 because of the Thanksgiving season boy we're at the right place at the right time. Remember those verses they told us in verse 16.

Let the message about Christ and all its richness fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom that he gives, seeing [Psalms](#) and hymns and spiritual [Psalms](#) to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say do it as a representative, as an ambassador of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to

God the Father. So on the heels of that, now Paul segues into again practical application and practical relationship situations.

Verse 18. Wives. Submit to your husbands as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord. You know we live in an interesting day where there are certain people who might read that verse and immediately the hair stand up on the back of their neck.

They might start going. Wives, submit to your husband. What's that all about? And you know what?

You might get this scene in your mind from a MMA mixed martial arts or something like that where somebody's down in a submission hold, right? You're supposed to submit. That's not what it means. We're going to put this in its context.

And what God is trying to communicate to us here is a godly order to relationships. And when we do it God's way, things work out properly. And when God tells us that wives submit your husbands, what he's saying here is that it's not an issue of the value of a man and a woman that a man is not more valuable than the wife. He's simply talking about the importance of God's divine and ordained structure.

Okay? Let me share something with you. Maybe this will make sense. What about the military?

In the military do they just kind of go out there and you know have their way in a fight? Well go on guys, take your guns, get out there and let's go. Now some of you served in the military. You know that their structure, you know that there is an order to the rankings, right?

You know that there are those who are in high position and that there are those who go down the chain and down the chain and except for those who are at the highest position of authority, everybody else is in submission to those people because of their rank. Now listen, it doesn't mean that as a person those people are any better than somebody that's a private or somebody that serves below somebody in a certain rank. It's not saying that at all. It's the same thing here.

It's not saying because the woman is in a situation or the wife is in a situation that they're supposed to submit to the husband that the husband is superior to the wife. It's not saying that at all. It's simply stating that in God's plan and scheme of things in his order that the husband is the head of the household as Christ is the head of the church. Even in the angelic realm, think about this.

We know that Michael and Gabriel are archangels, right? They're the highest angels. Did you know that Lucifer himself before he fell became Satan? That he was an archangel that had the privilege of leading the hosts of heaven and worship to God?

But because of rebellion, and this is something that's important to understand, because of rebellion in his heart, because he wanted to be like God, according to [Isaiah](#) 14, and really you serve God's position as God, that what happened in his rebellion, he sinned and he was kicked out of heaven. He tried to use serve God in his superior rank. And all this saying here again, as it relates to marriage relationships, is God has a divine plan. And when we subscribe to God's divine plan, guess what?

It works out lovingly. Go to [Ephesians](#) chapter 5, and let's get a perspective from Paul in his teaching to the church at Ephesus, which is talking about the same stuff,

but it's expanded, okay? And we'll get a better idea here from what he says. And by the way, when Paul was in prison and Rome at around 62 AD, when he penned this letter to the church of Colossi, that's when he also penned the letter to the church of Ephesus.

So there are some similarities, but it's awesome here that Paul gives a little more depth. We find in verse 21 of [Ephesians](#) chapter 5, and by the way, if I've ever performed your wedding or done a miracle counseling with you before, you're familiar with this because we go here. This is very, very important. We find in verse 21 of [Ephesians](#) 5, that Paul states this, and further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Now, he begins discussing about the husband and wife relationship with the important understanding that we are to submit one to another to give our lives one to another out of reverence for Jesus, out of reverence for the Lord. That's important to understand. Speaking about counseling people for premarital counseling, or dismarital counseling, one of the things that is important to come to an understanding of in folks, this is so important for us to know. We know we live in a culture and a society where we've been kind of taught that in order to have a successful relationship, that it's a 50-50 deal, right?

It's a 50-50 thing if we're going to have a successful marriage, rongo, that's why marriage is over 50% of them and in divorce. Because of the whole, well, you know, I'll give 50%, you give 50%, that makes 100%. That's not what God intends. God intends that we give ourselves completely and totally to the Lord and to each other.

That is what he's saying here. Submit to one another out of reverence, out of a sense of honor, respect to the Lord, and his plan and his purpose. Look at verse 22 now, and as you'll see in this parallels what we're seeing in [Colossians](#), for wives, this means submit your husbands as to the Lord. I was talking about coming under that subjection in terms of authority because God has ordained that.

And it doesn't mean that the husband is toward his position over his wife or to take advantage of that position. In fact, when a wife willingly is in a place of submission in the marriage relationship to her husband, and by the way, it's important to understand the Christian context here because there's something so important that we'll see in verse 23 then. They're relate. For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church.

He is the savior of his body, the church. Verse 24 says, as the church submits to who Christ, so your wife should submit to your husbands in everything. Now that, again, maybe, is challenging for some ladies you're reading through this, you're thinking, what's this all about? Does that mean I'm under my husband's thumb?

No, that's not at all what this is saying. We'll get some more insight as we move forward here. Verse 25, for husbands, verse 25, this means love your wives. Just as Christ loved the church, He gave Himself or gave His life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's Word.

See, there's that dynamic. That's what God wants us to understand that in the uniqueness of the marriage relationship with the order of the God has ordained, that when a wife is submitting to the headship of the husband, meaning the God has raised Him into that position of authority in the home, that if she lovingly submits to the Lord in that relationship, that the husband and His submission to the Lord is to love His wife just the way Jesus loved the church and what did He do? He laid down

His life for the church. Not only to redeem the church, but to empower the church to live.

Husbands, men, that's the way we're supposed to live our lives. To lay down our lives for our wives, for our families, for our kids. What does that mean? To not live a life that's focused on self, on self-centeredness and what I can get in my life, it's all about me.

No, it's about loving Jesus first and then in order of priority, then your wife is next, then your kids. And understanding the importance and the value of that. We do it God's way. And gentlemen, when we're loving our wives, the way Jesus loves the church, you know what happens?

Our wives are stirred. The hearts are moved to obey God's word and to live according to God's leading. And what we do is we work through things together. We work through things as God leads us and we find ourselves living out God's intention in those relationships.

And God is blessed, He's honored, and we're blessed. And it's amazing because we find a sense of satisfaction that we don't experience if we're doing outside of God's order. Now I'll do often folks, I see it in marriage relationships. When we're not doing it God's way, that there's strife, there are challenges, there's difficulties, and some marriages are hanging on by a thread.

And the reason is, they're not applying God's biblical standard. And we do it God's way. It's amazing what He does. And men, by the way, one of the things I want to point out here, it's one of our responsibilities.

In loving our wives, loving our families, when it says this, and He gave up His life for her to make her holy and clean. Now this is talking about Jesus as sacrifice, His death and laying down His life. Through His shed blood, He makes those who are part of the body of Christ holy and clean right through His sacrificial act. That they're washed by the cleansing of God's Word.

The washing of God's Word, what is that? The reality is, is that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. When we hear the proclamation of the gospel, we hear about the reality of who Jesus Christ is that He's God in the flesh. He submit, He had Himself, by the way, to the Father as a human being.

And the perfect sum of this life, died on the cross, was raised from the dead three days later as a result of His sacrifice and His resurrection. We can have eternal life. That's the gift. And when we accept that, reality, by hearing the Word, that there is this cleansing effect that comes to the washing of the water of the Word.

In this case, it's talking about redemption to the blood of Christ. But here's what happens to you and I. When we're studying God's Word, when we're reading God's Word, the Word of God has a washing and a cleansing effect on our minds. It's amazing what it does.

When we've been impacted by a sinful world, a tainted world, and we're bombarded through our eyes and our ears, and while this garbage that affects us in a very negative way, as we study God's Word, it cleanses us. It washes that garbage out. It's amazing. Anybody relate to that?

It's true. When we're washing, a lot of the God's Word to wash our minds and to give us the mind of Christ, we think the way God wants us to. We find ourselves walking in the love and the joy and peace of God wants us to, and that's His prescription. It's so important, but men, remember this, that as husbands and as fathers, God has also given us a responsibility because that's one of the things that the text here and the context is that it's our responsibility to be teaching our wives, to be teaching our children the truth of God's Word.

Isn't it wonderful that we have churches that we can go to and be taught God's Word, and God says we're supposed to come together and connect and worship and learn and to grow? But we've got, if you're not coming to church on Monday night too, it doesn't matter. You've got six days a week, and even on Sunday, it's our responsibility to sit down as a family, and men, it's our responsibility to be teaching our children the truth of God's Word. We can't sit back and say, well that's why I go to church.

At your responsibility, pastor, or somebody that's teaching a youth group or children's thing, sure it's our responsibility when you're here to do that. But God also holds us accountable men to make sure that we're teaching our children God's Word. And you don't have to spend an hour every day. You can use one of our devotionals that we give out.

There are a lot of really good things on our website or on Facebook. Every day we post Greg Lari's devotional study. Of course he's a Calvary pastor out of California. Most of you are familiar with Greg Lari probably.

And some wonderful little devotional study that you can go through, take five or ten minutes. Men sit down with your wives and your kids and go through that together. It's amazing. My wife and I and our kids do that every day.

And we just spend that time together just reading and praying together. Each one of us takes turns praying as part of that and reading the devotional and just discussing what we see in that. And it's amazing what that does for us as a family in the unity of the family. And how God truly blesses that.

So men if you're not doing that with your families, you need to start if you want some help and getting something about going through family come and see me come and see one of our elders like Bob or Bill or some of our deacons like Jake some of our people who are in leadership. They can help you and equip you to start doing that because it's absolutely important that we do that. Let's turn our attention back to [Colossians](#). And again just looking at that reality of the unique roles that God has for us.

He talked about an example like the military. Again, it's not an issue of somebody being better quantitatively or qualitatively better, right? It's the issue that God has established a rank in this situation. And I talked about a moment ago about Jesus himself.

Is there a better example than Jesus himself? Go with me to [John](#) 14. This just popped into my mind. This will be good.

Let's try this point home. [John](#) 14 on verse 28. And I know a lot of times when people are reading through God's word in the New Testament and they see this unique dynamic in the relationship between Jesus and the Father. It's kind of confusing.

And what we see here is this unique dynamic between the triune nature of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Back to verses 14 through 16 and 17, Jesus just pours out his heart to his disciples just before he's going to be crucified the following day. And he's talking again about the Holy Spirit, the minister of the Holy Spirit, him coming. And you see him talking about the dynamic of his relationship with the Father.

And so we see the triune nature of God and the interaction between the Father and the Son of the Holy Spirit here. In God, co-equal in power and authority and essence and yet they're totally unique in who they are in terms of their personalities and their form of operation within the Godhead. And we see this in verse 28, a [John](#) chapter 14. Jesus says, remember what I told you.

I am going away but I will come back to you again. If you really love me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father who is greater than I am. Some people would be confused by that. He's greater than I am.

In fact, some of the cults try to take this first and say, look, see Jesus is a lesser God than the Father. It says right here, Jesus Himself says that, wow, you know, I'm going to be with the Father who is greater than I am. What Jesus is talking about is his positional relationship to the Father. You see until Jesus humbled Himself according to [Philippians](#) chapter 2, took upon a form of the servant of a human being like us.

He had that unique and awesome experience of being with the Father and the Holy Spirit in heaven. He stepped out of eternity into time as a human being and as because he became a human being for the purpose of giving his life on our behalf as a human being, he had to subject himself to the limitations of humanity and he was dependent upon the Holy Spirit and upon the Father. And after he's talking about here as his role as Messiah and his humanity, he was less than the Father in that role that the Father and his position as God, the Father is the source and he was dependent upon the Holy Spirit and upon the Father for everything that he did as a human being. Holy God, holy man, we've gone through this before many times.

Jesus never left his identity as God but he did not tap into or utilize who he was as God in the flesh or would have disqualified him as Messiah. He had to lead his life as a human being. Why was he praying all the time because he was dependent on the Holy Spirit and empowering for the Father, the leading and direct him? And that's what Jesus is saying here and it's not that the Father in terms of his essence as God is any better than Jesus.

He's not their co-equal and power and authority in essence. Father is in Holy Spirit, one God. Yahweh, the self-existent one. Yet in his humanity Jesus is in subjection and submission to who the Father.

Jesus wise said that the Father is greater than I am. Wow, when Jesus says that he submitted himself, should we be reluctant then to submit ourselves to God's ordained authority in the way he wants us to? Again, as we look at verse 18, why submit your husbands as fitting to those who belong to the Lord? We must remember for doing it God's way, husbands who are loving our wives the way that Jesus loved the church and gave them so for that this dynamic works out and it's amazing what happens within a marriage relationship that does it God's way.

And again, verse 19, husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly. Never treat them harshly. And what that also says in some of your translations, never be bitter towards them or create in them a heart is filled with bitterness towards you

because of the way you treat them. By the way, when it says husbands love your wives, what word do you think that word love is?

Well, you know what? It's a gapay but it's the verb form of agape. It's agapo. I want to try and say that three times fast.

Agapo. Agapo. Agapo. Agapo is the verb form of agape.

What is a verb? It's action. That's right. Do you get that fellas?

Love. There's an action to love your wives and never treat them harshly. Be sensitive to who they are. Praise God.

Honor them for how God has blessed you with this wonderful woman who is your wife and never ever take lightly the blessing that we have because if we don't love them the way that we're supposed to, if we treat them harshly, then there was a root of bitterness that can build up in the heart of somebody who is supposed to be loved in this unique relationship. Our wives expect us to love them and to care for them and to provide and to play the role that God has called us to. And when we step outside of that and we lure ourselves over them and we don't love them and treat them the way they're supposed to, it can create this bitterness within their hearts and a resentment. If you've been married for any length of time, you know what can happen in your relationship if you're not loving and honoring each other in the roles that you have you're supposed to.

And most of us, if we've been married for any length of time, we can all look back at seasons in our marriage where we've experienced this, that contempt can come into a relationship because of familiarity. Have you ever heard of that? Saying familiarity breeds contempt sometimes because you're so close to a person because you know what makes them tick, you know all their weaknesses, that all of a sudden you find yourself treating them harshly and they'll treat you harshly and then all of a sudden there'll be a root of bitterness that can affect that relationship and it can be like a poison, like a cancer. God doesn't want that.

Again, husbands, let's love our wives. Let's not treat them harshly and by the way, the only way we can really do that is when we're submitting our lives to God the way we're supposed to be, submitting our lives to him, the need empowers us by his grace and his spirit to be the husbands and the fathers that he wants us to be. Now talking about relationship, next to the God, most important relationship is your marital relationship, then he segues into verse 20 and into the relationship with your children. Children always obey your parents.

For this pleases the Lord. Pretty straightforward, right? Always obey your parents' children. For this pleases the Lord.

Well, you know what? If you're living in a godly home when your mother and father are seeking the Lord, it makes it a lot easier for a child to submit to a mother and a father who are walking the walk as well. Again, we're all human beings. We have our moments.

We make mistakes. We're not floating around in clouds around our house. Never making mistakes for human beings, right? Praise God for His infinite grace and mercy.

But here's the reality. In gods or deigned order, if the children are willing to submit their lives, their hearts, their parents, and obey them, this will please the Lord. And God will bless those children in an amazing way. [Ephesians](#) again.

Let's go back to [Ephesians](#) chapter 6 now. And again, Paul, share something here that correlates with what we're seeing in [Ephesians](#) in a little bit more depth. And if you're still living at home, child, children, you may not be like five or six years old. You may be in high school or even college, but you will always have that unique dynamic with your mother and father.

They'll always be your parents. We should always respect them. Now, when you grow into maturity and you're living your own life and your responsible for your own life, is there come a time that you step out on your own and you shouldn't have your parents having to tell you what to do? And a lot of times parents still try to tell you what to do.

I mean, a helpful advice is good, but then trying to have your kids live the way you want them to after they've moved out, then there'll be some real challenges there. But as it relates to the home life here, we find in verse 1 of [Ephesians](#) 6, children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord. For this is the right thing to do. First to honor your father and mother.

This is the first commandment with a promise. When he says a commandment, that goes all the way back to [Exodus](#) chapter 20. It's one of the ten commandments. God thinks this is very, very important, doesn't he?

This is the first commandment, but he says with a promise. If you honor your father and mother, things will go well for you and you will have a long life on the earth. Kids, and I know, having been there done that, it was a long time ago now because I'm getting up there now. But I remember those days, you know, with mom and dad and sometimes they expect things that you think is unrealistic, some of the things they want you to do, you may think, that's unrealistic, why do I have to do that?

Here's the reality. If what they're asking you to do is reasonable, if it's something that has got honoring and it's the right thing to do and you have responsibility, you should do it. Your parents, if they're loving Godly parents, will not tell you to do something that is sin. They will not tell you to do something that's against the law or wrong.

If in any situation, even going back to the marriage relationship, wives, if your husbands are trying to get you to do something that is not consistent with the truth of God's word that would cause you to sin, then you don't submit to any authority in a situation where they try to get you to do something that's outside of the mandate of God's will. We know that even according to God's word, that if in a marriage relationship of one of the partners is a believer or another, you should remain together and in a situation, for example, if the husband is not a believer but the wife is, that the wife submits to the situation of the husband being in that head of the household because it could win him to Christ. But where it crosses the line is if the head of the household or anybody in a position of authority tries to get you to violate God's order or standard. We know that even in God's word, it tells us first of all to respect and honor and obey our public authorities, right?

Those are in our roles in government. As long as it doesn't violate God's principles, we find that even in the book of [Acts](#). With Philip and [John](#), the authorities came to them and arrested them and said, look, quit preaching Jesus. And they said, you know, basically, we're obeying the laws.

We're not breaking any laws here, but we answer to a higher authority. And as long as we're not circumventing the laws that are in place and never break the laws that are in place, we shouldn't do that. God wants us to obey certain laws. Why?

Because if we don't, there'd be anarchy and chaos. That is a God of structure and order, but God doesn't want us to step out of sight of something if it leads us to sin. And somebody's trying to get us to do something that's wrong. So there's a real strong balancer.

And what we need to always do is look at God's word for instruction. And it's wonderful when we have a house where a mother and father are living according to Godly principles and then they're loving and teaching their kids in that kind of environment. Boy, does it make it easier for the children as we see back in [Ephesians](#) to honor their father and their mother? Absolutely.

And again, kids, young people, God says, if you honor your father and your mother, things will go well for you and you'll have a long life on the earth. Look at verse 4 of [Ephesians](#) 6. 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.

There should be a solid standard in their homes where kids are taught a godly standard. And there is an application of discipline. Not so much as punishment but as discipline that there should be a standard in place. I can tell you this that in homes where there is not a standard of discipline, there's anarchy and there's chaos and there are challenges and there are difficulties.

And it's not always easy, but if we apply a godly standard of discipline in the home, an instruction that comes from the Lord that even through those rocky seasons again because we're all fallen, we all have a sin nature. It's not going to be perfect, but you'll see that that is the best way is to do it God's way. And fathers when it says, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. This by the way, just segue with that back into [Colossians](#) 3.

Verse 21 of [Colossians](#) 3, very familiar language what we just read. Fathers do not aggravate is the way that is stated here. By the way, that means provoke also some of the translations say, exasperate. Some say to stir up, it all relates, right?

Fathers do not aggravate or stir, exasperate your children or they will become discouraged. Do you know how sensitive our hearts of our children are? Their spirits how easily they can be crushed? If we don't exercise love towards them and by the way, even in discipline, we love and we discipline lovingly in that relationship, you know, it's all too easy in our relationships with our children sometimes to just snap.

And I'm saying snap, I'm not talking about going ballistic. In fact, that can happen too and that's not a good thing. But I'm just making a quick harsh response to your child in a given situation because of whatever the dynamic is, it caused you to do that. And I think there are a lot of times that we don't deal with our children properly and that in the moment we're distracted or whatever is going on and we're not giving that attention, we're not encouraging them and being able to relate to them the way that we should, that we have no idea how their hearts are being affected in that moment.

And if we could just stop in that moment, that we don't even have a clue and see how their heart has been hurt and what is happening in that situation that we would be blown away. Let's pray that God gives a sensitivity to that reality because we've been

given an amazing gift and a privilege and responsibility in loving our kids and raising them up. And again, kids remember what I said earlier and a lot of our kids are over in the middle school in junior high class. Parents need to listen to this on the website.

The reality is again. Don't provoke the parents either. Don't push their buttons. Don't cross the lines.

Don't do the things you know you shouldn't do. I know that's part of our sin nature and as we're growing up, boy, you want to try things and you want to do things that you shouldn't. But the reality is God loves us and He does apply discipline to us so that we learn those lessons. You know there's that adage that you re-put you so guess where that comes from?

It comes from the book of [Galatians](#) chapter 6. When God does not mock whatever we reap, we will sow their several applications to that. You can sow good stuff. You reap good stuff.

You can trust God for a good harvest in doing the right things and God will come through. But you can also do the things that you shouldn't and you will answer for that. There will be consequences for not doing things God's way and it's so important to understand if we do a God's way that He honors and He blesses that. In our relationships, as we think back about what we read in verses 12 after this point, remember, let's close ourselves with tender hearted mercies.

Let's put on Christ and let the spirit of Christ through us affect every relationship that we have, whether it's our marriage relationship or relationship with our children. We could go through and develop a series here and I don't want to get too lengthy on this but folks really pray through these things. Let God speak your heart because we do need to move on from this point. But I think I know that as long as we apply God's truth, He will direct us what we need to know about these things so important.

Now look at verse 22. Slaves obey your earthly masters and everything you do. Try to please them all the time and not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverend fear of the Lord.

At first look you might say, well, none of us are slaves so that's totally irrelevant today. And in terms of the culture and the history, Paul is dealing with his times and unfortunately during his time there were societies in which there were slavery. There was slavery. Not a good thing.

And Paul is not going to stir up the current cultures. His mission is to introduce the gospel to set people free spiritually and to trust the Lord to take care of everything else. So what he is saying here in his context does relate to a situation where people were in submission as slaves to different people. What would there be in relevance to you and I today?

Yeah, there would be. That would be the workplace. You ever thought about that? The reality is when you work in an environment where you have somebody over authority of you, you were in submission to that person.

You're not a slave but there's an expectation of you as a worker in that environment. And is there a right expectation that they should have that you should come and give a good, honest days work and do the things that you were supposed to do in that workplace? Absolutely. And you know what?

That's not always easy. Anybody here ever have, maybe right now, you have an employer or you have somebody in a position of authority over you that it's really hard to work under them. You're not the best person. They might treat you harshly.

They might have character that is, you know, you're thinking, man, I'm a far better person than they are. I don't act like that. I don't treat people like that. And again, remember, it's not an issue of the quality again.

It's the issue of structure that's in place. God says, again, slaves obey your earthly masters and everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. So what are you saying here?

It's not like, so if you're in a workplace, don't be goofing around. When you see the boss coming, then you act like you're real busy. That's really what he's saying. And some of the things you're going to see here is we move forward.

Is in the next part of that verse it says, serve them sincerely because what? Because if you're reverent fear or respect of the Lord, so he's tying this all together, it's so important to understand that if you are in a work environment, that is not easy, that you wish you could get out of that, that you wish something better would come along. And maybe some of you are in a situation and the reality is that you're not going to be able to do that in the foreseeable future. Whatever that environment is, it says in verse 23, work willingly at whatever you do.

As though you were working for the Lord rather than for people, there's the key. That's what makes it easier. If you get up and you start your day saying, okay, Jesus, you're the Lord of my life, that means everything, including my work and life, my relationships in the workplace. So Jesus, it doesn't matter how my manager, the person that I work with, not if matter how they treat me, how rudely they treat me, I am working for you.

I am submitting first and foremost to you. So when the difficult time comes, that helps me stay focused because I am working for you. And again, let's read that verse, work willingly at whatever you do. Because though you are working for the Lord, that's your motivation rather than for the people.

Remember back in the beginning or the earlier in this chapter, when it told us that in verse 17 and whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord as an ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to him to God the Father. Remember that in your workplace, wherever you're at, you are a representative of Jesus Christ. You are bold enough to tell people you are a Christian, but they're watching you. Keep that in mind.

It doesn't mean you're perfect. Sometimes when they see a stumble, how we respond and we stumble, communicates to them that we're absolutely dependent on God's grace and His mercy and His Spirit within us. They can see that in our humanity, that there's hope for them because we're not holier than now. We're not.

We're sinners say by the grace of a loving God who empowers us by His grace to continually live for Him. And I don't know about you, but I am dependent on that grace every day of my life, every day of my life. Pray that God pours out His grace upon you and His power and His Spirit again, and we should work willingly at whatever we do as though we're working for the Lord because we are His ambassador. Remember we're working for Him rather than people.

Now verse 24. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward and that the master you are serving is Christ. So he's making a connection with verse 23 here and verse 22. He's putting it all together.

Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward. He's talking big picture here, folks. He's talking eternal perspective. God can and does in His sovereignty and when in a given situation, He wants to bless us in a situation now tangibly, He does that.

And He did say that if we seek His face in His kingdom and His righteousness, that He will meet all of our needs, but the broader scope of the reality is here that when we're faithful in our relationships here on earth now, that when we get home, when we stand before Jesus, what is called the judgment seat, the balm-missed of Christ, that we will receive an inheritance as a reward for being faithful because we're being faithful to God here. Okay? If you're faithful to God, you will be an unfaithful employee. You will be a faithful husband.

You'll be a faithful wife. You'll be a faithful child who loves and obeys their parents. All of these things, God will give us an inheritance for as a reward because Jesus is our master. He is the one that we're serving.

Verse 25 concludes this chapter saying this then. But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites. Certainly that applies to people who rejected the grace of God, who don't know Jesus, but guess what?

That also applies to believers who are truly and sincerely born again, but aren't living their lives the way they should. We do take, if it is for people who like in the work environment, take advantage of a situation that are doing things wrong, that aren't being a vian bastard for Christ at the intents. There is a responsibility that we have before the Lord. Let me throw out some verses for you as a little bit of homework.

William Corinthians chapter 5 verse 10 talks about our accountability before God at the Bamecy. And I do want you to go to [1 Corinthians](#) chapter 3. And to give you a little bit of a perspective here about this situation. In [1 Corinthians](#) chapter 3, beginning in verse 9, Paul talks about, again, God's grace, which is right cool, how it empowers him, and the foundation that we have in Christ when we become believers.

Verse 9, [1 Corinthians](#) chapter 3 says, for we are both God's workers and you are God's field, you are God's buildings, talking about this unique dynamic of another servant of God who had a leadership role in that community. And people were arguing about who they were following and Paul saying it doesn't matter. Ultimately we're all following Jesus. That's what matters most.

He says this in verse 10, because of God's grace to me and you can apply that to your life. You can personalize that because of God's grace to me. I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it, but whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful.

Verse 11, for no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have. Jesus Christ. He's the foundation. So when you're born again at that moment, you become a believer in Christ.

You are saved. That's your foundation. You have a relationship with him. He's the bedrock.

He is the rock of your salvation. Now you begin a journey, a walk with him that's the remainder of your life and two you draw your last breath in this life and enter into his presence. And what happens when we enter into his presence someday when our lives come to a conclusion, we will stand before what is called the Bain and Cedar Christ. It's the judgment seat of Christ.

And what is in view here, folks, is not a salvation issue. You're there because you've been saved. You're in heaven. This is happening in heaven.

But it's you and I giving an account to Jesus for our stewardship of our lives. That's exactly what Paul is saying over in [Colossians](#) 3, that we will give an account for our stewardship, that there will be an inheritance and a reward for faithful service to God and living the way he has instructed us to in our relationships with our marriages and with our kids. And in our workplaces we'll have an inheritance. But if we reject that and do it the wrong way, there's an accountability.

Look what it says in verse 12. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials. And he's talking about this metaphorically. Look at the ones that speak of value, gold silver, jewels.

That stuff that was done in proper motivation to God. You were serving him and God is rewarding you for that. That is stuff that God will honor. And that's what he's saying over here.

That would be the stuff that you do right based on [Colossians](#) chapter 3. But he says there are some other materials too. Wood, hay and straw. We know what happened to the little pigs, right?

And he huffed and he puffed. And he blew their house down. Why? It's made a straw.

Not good. They're good at says in verse 13. But on that judgment day, and again, this is the judgment seat of Christ, fire. He's talking about a purification.

Fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. And you and I are those builders. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. If the work survives, the builder will receive a reward.

But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone burying escaping through a wall of flames. That's powerful language. What Paul is saying is those who have been faithful to the Lord who said, Jesus, yes, you're the Lord of my life.

I submit myself to you. I want to live for you. I want to make my life count only. Now for your glory, but for eternity.

That is the stuff of value, the gold and the silver and the jewels. And that is speaking of what will be rewarded. But if we weren't faithful to serve him, then the selfishness, everything we did out of and improper motive will be burned up. It's talking about purification.

Whether there is a literal fire there, that's not really what he's talking about. He's talking about metaphorically speaking. There are God's view of what's happening here. He, the sirens and nose.

But he said they will suffer great loss. And this is something that really concerns me when he says in verse 15, but if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. But the builder will be saved. He's saying, look, there will be people who stand before me that accepted my grace for salvation.

They were born again, but that was pretty much it. They accepted my gift of eternal life. And because of that, they're in heaven. And that's a good thing.

But they didn't make Jesus' Lord of their lives, and they chose to live selfishly and not for the Lord. And God is saying, hey, you basically, you escaped hell. And you're with me, but you didn't really do anything that has eternal value. And folks that does make a difference.

It makes a difference to God. Some people have the attitude, well as long as I'm in heaven, woohoo! That's all that matters. That due to the works, works don't mean anything to God.

No, that's not true. God wants us to serve Him. We know that when we seek Jesus and we live for Him, that He is designed us to serve Him and to do good works for His glory, and they're a product of our salvation. Okay?

It's an overflow of the Spirit of God within us. And even living in the right relationship within our marriages and loving our kids and doing what we're supposed to be doing in our relationship, those are good works of God honors because they're God ordained. It's the way that He intended it. It's one of these days whether it's you and I stepping out of this place because we draw our last breath here, whether it's an accident, or we come to the end of our days because of old age, and whether it's somebody like Dixie of her, one of our church fellowship members that three weeks ago today, 46 years old had a heart attack.

She stepped out of her bathroom into God's presence just like that. Given her family and so many, something to think about, others who've been really close to death, you understand the brevity of that situation. Bob prayed for Reba Hawkins' esmering. There's a possibility that she, at any time, could breathe her last breath and step into God's presence.

She accepted Christ here as her Savior several years ago. Praise the Lord for that. But she has family members that we know don't know the Lord yet. They need to know Jesus.

The reality is each person is going to stand before the Lord and nobody is getting out of it. There's not a buy, there's not a pass for anybody. He is a Lord of creation. He created all that exists.

He created every human being and all of us will stand before Him. And I don't know about you, but I don't want to hear Him say, wow, kid, why did you squander your life? When you could have had such a wonderful existence serving me, I don't want to have Him hear me say that because there will be a moment in time, even though we're in her presence, like He says, that we will have that sense of loss, that we blew it. If we're saved, we're there and it'll be a wonderful experience and eternity with

Him, but there will be a moment of regret when you realize I don't get to do that again.

I had my shot and I didn't faithfully serve the Lord and I wish I would have. I wish I would have. And there will be those who stand before Jesus and He will say, well done, good and faithful servant. You didn't say perfect, but those who even through their challenges and their difficulties and their mess-ups came to God and said, Lord, you know my heart and I do love you.

I want to live for you. Even through my challenges, even when I blow it, I know that your faithful and just forgive me, help me to walk. This walk, help me to run this race and power by your grace in your spirit. And Jesus says, okay, kid, I'm here for you.

I'm here to empower you because I know you can't do that in and of yourself. So I'm here to empower you to do that. That's the God that we serve. And He is here to make us men, the husbands, the fathers He's called us to be by His grace and His spirit and power as you ladies to be the wives and the mothers that He's called you to be in right relationship to Him and in our marriages.

All of us as kids, yes, I have a mother. My father's been with Jesus 15 years now for his Lord. But you know what? She's my mom.

And there's a love and a commitment there that I will always have. It shall always be my mom. But there are those of you who are kids who are still in your homes with your mom and dads. And yes, God has raised your mom and dad up there to love you, to encourage you, and to teach you to be responsible and to live for the Lord and to be the kind of people God has called you to be.

And you by the grace and the power of God can be the people God has called you to be too. It doesn't matter how old you are. And that's the God that we serve. Let's pray.

Father in Jesus, awesome, holy and hand, we thank you for your word. We thank you for your love and your grace. And we thank you, Father, that you've given us practical truth that meets us right where we're at. Father, you know each of our hearts?

You know our relationships with our loved ones, our marriages and our children. And you know, Father, that even in this room today, perhaps there are challenges and struggles because Lord, I know that at some point in every relationship, there's going to be a difficult year challenge. God be cry out to you. We ask that you would help us by your grace and your spirit.

For all of us to play the unique roles that you call us to, because it's pleasing to you for us to live the way that you call us to. So again, we pray that by your spirit and by your grace that as we learn and we grow, that we will be the husbands and the wives and the children that you call us to be, that will be the employees that you call us to be. And we'll do all that we do to honor and glorify you because it's you, Jesus, that we serve because you indeed are Adonai, our master. We love you when we praise you God.

As we conclude with a couple of worship songs, Lord, I pray that as we worship you, as we pray that you would just stir each of our hearts. You're speaking uniquely to each one of us. So Lord, seize this opportunity to drive these truths home and Father, help us to seize this opportunity just to call on your name to this time of ministry so that you can speak to our hearts. And Father, as Jake and Bob make

themselves available for prayer in the foyer, if there's anybody that needs to go and be prayed for, give them the courage to go and have these Godly men pray for them.

And Father, again, we just asked that you would speak to our hearts in this closing time of worship in Jesus' name, in Jesus' name. So just continue in a time of prayer if you want to, can you get that light, light, that light, please?