

# Small Group Guide: A Supreme Life - Submit to One Another

**Series:** A Supreme Life (Colossians)

**Text:** Colossians 3:17-21; Ephesians 5:21

## Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by thanking God for mothers and all who have served in motherly roles. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and help you apply God's Word to your relationships.

## Icebreaker

Share about someone who modeled servant leadership in your life. How did their example impact you?

## Key Takeaways

1. **Supreme Authority Leads to Servant Hearts** - Jesus, though equal with God, took on the nature of a servant. True greatness is revealed through serving, not through acting superior.
2. **The Head Phrase Matters** - "Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17) is the foundation for understanding all household relationships.
3. **Mutual Submission** - "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21) applies to everyone, not just one party in a relationship.
4. **Revolutionary Teaching** - Paul challenged the harsh, authoritarian culture of his day by calling Christians to love, serve, and honor one another in all relationships.
5. **Status Doesn't Matter to God** - Whether slave or master, rich or poor, our service to Christ is what matters most.

## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Context

1. How does understanding the Greco-Roman culture (Aristotle's philosophy, Roman law) help you better understand Paul's radical teaching in Colossians?
2. Why do you think Paul started with "whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus" before giving specific instructions to families?

### Marriage Relationships

3. Read Ephesians 5:21. How does mutual submission change the way we think about marriage roles? What does voluntary submission look like practically?
4. The sermon stated that husbands are called to "love, care for, feed, wash with the Word, and shower with care" their wives. Which of these do you find most challenging? Why?
5. How does viewing your spouse as "an extension of yourself" (one flesh) change the way you treat them daily?

## Parent-Child Relationships

6. Parents: What does it mean to "not embitter" or "not exasperate" your children while still maintaining boundaries and discipline?
7. How can parents balance loving their children well while also requiring obedience and respect?
8. Young adults/teens: How does understanding that discipline comes from love change your perspective on your parents' rules or boundaries?

## Applying Servant Leadership

9. Read Philippians 2:3-8. In what specific relationship (marriage, parenting, work, church) do you struggle most to "consider others better than yourself"?
10. The sermon mentioned that "putting your foot down does not make you great." When are you most tempted to assert authority rather than serve?

## Personal Reflection

Take 3-5 minutes of silence for personal reflection:

- In which relationship am I most acting like the world (demanding my rights, asserting authority) rather than like Christ (serving, loving sacrificially)?
- What is one specific way I can demonstrate servant leadership this week?

## Practical Applications

Choose 1-2 to focus on this week:

### For Everyone

- **Memorize Colossians 3:17** - Let this verse guide your attitude in all relationships this week
- **Service Challenge** - Do one unexpected act of service for someone in your household without announcing it or expecting recognition

### For Married Couples

- **Prayer Together** - Pray with your spouse daily this week, asking God to help you serve each other better
- **Love Languages** - Discuss how you each receive love differently and commit to one specific action that meets your spouse's needs

### For Parents

- **Quality Time** - Schedule one-on-one time with each child this week to listen without correcting or instructing
- **Apologize Well** - If you have been harsh or exasperating, humbly apologize and ask forgiveness

### For Children/Teens

- **Honor Practically** - Choose one way to honor your parents this week (help without being asked, express gratitude, obey cheerfully)

- **Trust the Process** - When discipline or boundaries feel unfair, remember Hebrews 12:11 - discipline produces righteousness

## For Singles

- **Mentor or Be Mentored** - Seek out a relationship where you can practice servant leadership
- **Church Family** - Look for ways to serve families in your church community

## Accountability

Pair up and share:

- Which practical application will you focus on this week?
- How can your partner pray for you and check in with you?

Exchange contact information and plan to connect mid-week.

## Closing Prayer

Pray together:

- For marriages in your group to reflect Christ's love for the church
- For parents to lead with love and wisdom
- For children to honor and obey
- For all relationships to be marked by mutual submission and service
- That Christ would be supreme in every area of your lives

## Looking Ahead

**Memory Verse for this Next Week:** Colossians 3:23-24

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."