

## Whatever Your Role

### Colossians 3:18-4:1

- Colossians 3:17 - "Whatever you do... do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus"

### Cultural Challenge

- We live in an individualistic culture
- Words like "submit" and "obey" can sound oppressive or dangerous
- But submission isn't the enemy of human flourishing - it's the pathway to it
- Orchestra: Beauty comes when each instrument plays their part while following the same leader

### Four Roles Paul Addresses:

#### 1. In MARRIAGE - Submit as if to the Lord (3:18-19)

Verse 18: "Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."

Verse 19: "Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them."

- Love like Christ loved the church - He died for her
- Not creating a dictatorship but a context where sacrificial love and willing submission work together

#### 2. In PARENTING - Shepherd as if for the Lord (3:20-21)

Verse 20: "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."

Verse 21: "Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged."

- Don't abuse your authority
- Parent like God parents you - with kindness and gentleness

#### 3. In WORK - Honor as if unto the Lord (3:22-4:1)

For Employees (verses 22-25):

- Work with excellence not because of your boss or pay
- But because you're ultimately working for Jesus

For Employers (4:1):

- Treat people under your authority with fairness and respect
- You also have a master in heaven

#### 4. In ALL ROLES - REMEMBER you serve the same Lord (4:1)

The Key: "because you know that you also have a Master in heaven"

This means:

- Your submission isn't weakness - it's worship
- Your obedience isn't just compliance - it's character development
- Your parenting isn't just child management - it's discipleship
- Your work isn't just a paycheck - it's ministry
- Your leadership isn't just authority - it's stewardship

## **Important Clarifications:**

Paul's teaching assumes everyone is:

- Following **Christ**
- Motivated by **love**
- Seeking the other person's **needs**

The gospel never calls you to:

- Enable **Sin**
- Endure **Abuse**

## **Personal Application Questions**

1. In what relationship are you trying to **avoid** the role God has given you?
2. Where are you demanding your **rights** instead of embracing your responsibilities?
3. What role are you treating like it's about **you** instead of serving Christ?
4. How would your relationships change if you believed you were serving **Jesus** in each?

## **The Bottom Line:**

Whatever your role - **embrace/fulfill** it and, **excel** in it as if you're doing it directly for Jesus.