

# Submission is Not a Dirty Word

## Intro:

The Bible has a lot to say about our relationship with God and what it should look like. We might, however, be surprised at how much it has to say about our relationships with others as well.

Today we want to look at that very topic, our relationship with others, and see what we can learn from Scripture.

## Background:

The book of Colossians seeks to correct some flawed thinking that had entered into the church at Colossae. Instead of reflecting on how desperately we needed Jesus' sacrifice and work in our lives and how generous and merciful Jesus was to provide it, we fall into a trap. We can find ourselves, like the Colossians, slipping into the thought process that salvation comes from Jesus Christ plus... Maybe it is Jesus plus good works. Perhaps it is Jesus plus the right Bible translation. For the Colossians, it was Jesus plus the observance of the right religious feast and the Sabbath Day. To some of the Colossian Christians, the right rituals were every bit as important as the right Savior, Jesus Christ. Thus, Paul desired to confront this dangerous teaching before it became a real problem.

Paul has spoken in chapter 1 of who Jesus is and why we should follow and worship Him. In chapter 2 he shares what Jesus does for us through His work and ministry. Chapter 3 takes a look at what a lifestyle of faith truly looks like. How does it look like in the key relationships in our lives?

Please take some time to look at the text and do the following before having more in-depth discussion with your group:

- Slowly and carefully read the text 2-3 times, reflecting on what is being said.
- Put a question mark beside words or phrases that are confusing to you.
- Underline the key thoughts or phrases that seem to be the main point(s) of the passage.

## Colossians 3:17-25 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

<sup>18</sup> *Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

<sup>19</sup> *Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.*

<sup>20</sup> *Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.*

<sup>21</sup> *Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

<sup>22</sup> *Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.*

<sup>23</sup> *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,*

<sup>24</sup> *since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

<sup>25</sup> *Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.*

**Colossians 4:1 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> *Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.*

**Discuss:**

- What are some things we can learn about God/Jesus/His plan from this passage?
- What do we learn about people?
- What do we learn about relating to God?
- What do we learn about relating to others?

**Apply:**

- What does God want me to think/understand?
- What does God want me to believe?
- What does God want me to desire?
- What does God want me to do?

**Prayer time:**