



**CHRIST THE KING**  
**ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER IN HIM**



## **Roles of the Kingdom**

Colossians 3.20-25

### Main Idea

In combination with husbands and wives; children, fathers, slaves, and masters each have a role to play in imaging Christ and the majesty of His Kingdom.

### Overview

#### **I. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord**

- Children should want to make God happy as it will return in making them happy
- The reason for this is that it was the way God designed the world
  - And when we live in keeping with His design, as is seen in the Kingdom, it pleases the Lord and it serves to please them (us) as well
- Parents should teach obedience by giving their children both law and grace

#### **II. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged**

- This passage can be directed at Mothers as well
  - However Paul seems to be addressing the leader of the home (Vss. 18-19)
- Provoking or discouraging has within its frame the idea of crushing their spirit
- Parents are to teach their children what God is like
  - They should teach and encourage obedience
  - They should also do so with healthy expectations
    - If they are too great, then that will serve to provoke or discourage them
    - They cannot be too thin, as that will serve to discourage them in learning the Gospel

#### **III. Slaves/Bondservants obey in everything those who are your masters and Masters treat your slaves justly and fairly**

- “Slaves” here is not analogous to 19<sup>th</sup> Century Slavery in America
  - Slavery then and there was ethnically based...it was not ethnically based in Biblical times
  - Slavery then and there promoted poverty...it was possible to earn a good living in Biblical times
  - Slavery then and there suggested inequality...Paul’s admonitions here engender equality
    - The word “fairly” could be interpreted “equally”
    - Onesimus (slave) is noted to be a “beloved brother” (Philemon 16)
    - Paul addresses Slaves inside the relationship of family and addresses them as equally culpable moral citizens
    - The admonition of Paul to Masters in 4.1 would not be heard of regarding slavery in America
- Slaves could be seen here as “workers”: Therefore
  - Workers should work, not ultimately for their Master/Mgr, but for the Lord

- The great reward is found in him, not in pleasing an earthly master
- Masters could be rendered here as Managers: Therefore
  - Masters/Mgrs should understand they have a Master in the Lord, therein they should treat those under them as Christ has treated them...justly and fairly

### Questions

*Discussion Starter: Discuss how roles serve to benefit a company or a sports team. Give examples*

1. Why is it important to teach children to obey their parents? Why is obedience so important to a child in relation to their parents?
2. Give some examples of how a father/mother could provoke or discourage their child?
3. What is the importance of correcting children with both the “Whats” and the “Whys” of obedience in child rearing?
4. How do these commands apply to those who aren't parents? What role do you play inside the church in all of this?
5. Slaves: How was slavery different during Biblical times to those who want to compare it to the American version?
6. What is the reward of eye pleasing and why would Paul call us away from that in our work?
7. Why is a reward important in considering the motive of your work?
8. Does it change the way and the end of how you go about your work in the day to day?
9. Explain why Masters should treat their slaves justly and fairly.

*Accountability Question: Where is it you are not working for the Lord and only working for man?*