

# Colossians

## Jesus impacts my roles 3:18-4:1



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### Hints and Highlights

1. The first half of the chapter talks about the Chris-directed life. Paul then applies it in how we live, through the various roles that we live in. This is a great example of how you apply theology in real life.
2. Plan a party or an outreach together with your group. Remember to invite other people, as you want to build open communities, that welcome everyone in.

### Introduction *(choose the option that best fits your group, or create your own)*

#### Option 1:

*Have everyone share about their first job. Where did they work? What did they do? What was hardest about the job?*

#### Option 2:

*Have everyone think through their last year. What are some of the roles they have played? (they could include son or daughter, sister or brother, friend, coach, teacher, listener, etc.)*

#### Option 3:+

*Draw a picture of your kitchen table. Where did everyone sit? What was the typical evening meal at your house like growing up.*

- What are some things that impact the way we live out our roles in life?

Paul just doesn't talk about theoretical theology. He applies it into how we live every area of our lives, including our roles.

### Diving In

*Read 3:18-21*

1. Take a moment and summarize God's desire for each person. What are some things you notice about the kinds of commands for each person? Do you see any similarities? Any differences?
2. What do you think it means for wives to submit to their husbands? What does this not mean? What are some ways this has been abused? What might be some benefits? (You may want to look at Eph. 5:22-24 to gain more insight on this. Also if any women in your group have particular trouble with this verse you may want to have them talk to a staff member or one of the wives on our staff team about how they feel about this verse.)
3. How would you describe the command to husbands? How would a husband truly loving his wife diminish any fear in submission? (You can also look at Eph. 5:25-33 for more insight)
4. How would you describe the command to children? Why do you think children obeying their parents pleases the Lord? How relevant is this to us as college students?

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## Hints and Highlights

1. The idea of submission is misunderstood. This topic is probably beyond the scope of a community group. First, it is important to realize that this would never refer to girlfriends. Second, this is balanced by "as is fitting to the Lord". Third, the fact that men and women have different roles does not mean they are valued differently by God. Fourth, this never applies in work relationships but only to husbands and wives.
2. The relationship between parents and children change as they become grown-up. Then we are to honor our parents, but not blindly obey (see Eph. 6:1-4)
3. This passage does not condone slavery. Paul's point was not to take on this aspect of Roman society that had existed for hundreds of years. Rather Paul is speaking to every person in their condition in society. The slavery of ancient Rome was not as cruel, racist, or permanent as American slavery. In Philemon we actually see Paul asking a Christian master to consider freeing his slave, Onesimus.
4. A fair application for the slave portion is in our work with our employers.
5. In Roman times slaves could not receive an inheritance, so Paul really points them toward our eternal inheritance that all believers receive.

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5. How would you describe the command to fathers? How might fathers embitter their children? How do you think this might discourage them?

*Read 3:22-4:1*

1. How would you describe the command to slaves? (See side bar—this does not mean the Bible endorses slavery) What is Paul's heart in what he writes here? How does this show obedience and reverence for the Lord?
2. How would you describe the command in v. 23? What would it look like to do everything as working for the Lord? What do you think are some differences between working for God and working just for people?
3. Although we are not slaves how is this relevant for us? How would you describe the kind of approach to life should we all have?
4. What do you think the inheritance is? How does knowing that I will receive an inheritance impact my daily life? How does my perspective change if I remind myself I am doing everything for Christ and not for my boss/coach/professor?
5. Why do you think Paul reminds them that those who do wrong will be repaid? What do you think this means? Why do you think there should be no favoritism?
6. How would you describe the instruction to masters? What do you think this would look like? Why should remembering we have a Master in Heaven impact how we lead?

### *In Summary*

1. How would you summarize the challenges Paul gives for each role?
2. What might be some common themes between them?
3. How does living these roles out in this way reflect a Christ-directed life?
4. How does the inheritance in Heaven change the way I view my life right now?

## Making Application

Jesus is not just a theological exercise. He changes how you live out the roles in your life.

1. What are some areas of similarity between myself and these roles. What are some ways I can live this out?
2. What are some ways that I can work as for the Lord, not for other people? How does this impact my studies? My work? My relationships?
3. How does remembering our heavenly inheritance focus my life right now? What difference does it make?

*Let's thank Jesus for changing the way we live our lives.*