

# Sermon Reflections

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*Showing Off in Front of Others • Colossians 3:18-4:6*

**Summary:** Show off the authority of Christ and His rule in your heart, starting with your most fundamental relationships.

## 1. To Your Spouse (vv. 18-19)

- “Wives, submit to your husbands.” How do those words grip you? What is the Biblical idea of submission for the wife? How does it differ from the teaching/philosophies (false teaching) of the world today? Is there a time when submission to the husband is not good? Why or why not?
- “Love your wives and do not be harsh with them.” Love your wives as God demonstrated His love toward us in Rom 5:10. How can that love be displayed by the husband? (Matt 11:29; I Cor 13:4-7) Are there some false teachings that have affected your attitude toward marriage? How do the examples of God's love toward you help you love your wife?

## 2. To Your Family (vv. 20-21)

- “Children, obey your parents in everything.” This is the most important earthly relationship for a child. But, has false teaching (world philosophies) affected your attitude toward your parents? The God of the Universe obeyed His earthly parents; what does that tell you about obeying your parents?
- “Fathers, do not provoke your children.” In what ways do we provoke frustrations and discouragement in our children? What part does wisdom play in the parents’ exercise of God-given authority over the child. How should God's responses to you (as His child) affect your responses to your children? (Jesus' response to Peter's denial)

## 3. To Your Co-laborers (vv. 3:22–4:1)

- “Bondservants, obey in everything.” In what ways would this phrase relate to your position as an employee? Who do you really answer to? For whom are you really working? (v 17, 23) Who are you really trying to please? Who was being shown off through Jesus' work ethic? What happens when a believer mis-represents the Lord's character? (v 25)
- “Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly.” As a boss over employees, how challenging is impartiality? How can you protect yourself from misuse of power and position?

## 4. To the World (vv. 4:2-6)

- “Continue Steadfastly in Prayer.” Why is this perhaps the hardest work in a Christian walk? What does “being watchful in it” mean? Where was Paul when he wrote this letter? What kind of door do you think he had in mind? What kind of door could you pray would be opened?
- “Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.” Think about using wisely the time you have been given. Who does this passage call you to give an answer to? What kinds of questions do you think would be asked of you? How would you answer?