

## Fill Up! And Overflow at Home Col 3:18-4:1

We've been in the spiritual stratosphere of the previous paragraphs

We've been told to set our minds on things above; put on intangible attributes of Christ

Now, Paul brings it home, literally

Makes it clear that the most important place to put all this into practice is in the home

Bottom line – If you don't overflow at *home* with the love of Jesus and the truth of his

Word, you're not going to overflow anywhere else

Read Col. 3:18-4:1

Addresses 3 pairs of relationships

Husbands and Wives; Parents and Children; Masters and Slaves

In each pair, the basis for the behavior is *the Lord*

18 – *as is fitting in the Lord*; 20 – *this pleases the Lord*; 22 – *fearing the Lord*

23 – *as for the Lord*; 24 – *from the Lord*; 24 – *you are serving the Lord Christ*

4:1 – *you have a Lord in heaven*

7 times – The *Lord* is cited as the foundation/reason we should behave these ways

That's why overflowing at home starts when you . . .

**Honor the Lord in your marriage (v 18-19)**

In order to do so, we have to start with the fact that . . .

Bible teaches that husbands and wives are equal in value and worth, yet different in their roles and responsibilities

Equal in value and worth

Gal. 3:28 – *There is neither . . . male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Gen 1:28 – *Created in God's image . . . male and female*

Different in roles and responsibilities

Paul addresses part of these roles in this passage, and I want to start with the husband's

- Husbands, honor the *Lord* by loving your wife (19)

19 – *Husbands, love your wives*

This love is not concerned with power or control or authority or rights

It's about serving her, not being served

It's about supporting her, not superiority

It's about gently leading her, not lording it over her

I don't care if your wife is un-loveable – so are you . . . love her anyway

I don't care if she's not the same person she used to be . . .

Doubt any caveats/parentheses on your vows (promise have/hold unless you change)

Love her anyway

I don't care if her body doesn't have the same curves it used to . . .

Get over it and love her anyway

And do so tenderly

19 – *Do not be harsh with them* God says

Your wife yearns for you to love her wholeheartedly, and *tenderly*

Did you know . . .

Your wife will respond to your attention or lack thereof in very predictable ways

If you love her tenderly like you should – she will flower in beauty; beauty never seen

I can usually gage the health of the marriage by the countenance of the wife

Love her tenderly, not harshly

The other side of the equation is for . . .

- Wives, honor the *Lord* by submitting to your husband

Submission is a joyful yielding to the discretion/decisions of your husband

It's part of a wife's God-ordained responsibility and opportunity to honor and affirm her husband's leadership, and help carry it through

When you submit as is fitting in the Lord (18), you . . .

Submit in a way that goes hand in hand with who you are as a follower of Christ

When people look at you, they should see (Christianity and wifehood go together)

Submission is NOT an absolute surrender of your will, or a permanent zipping of your lip

Not spineless consent, degrading humiliation, demeaning servitude, passive resignation

Rather, it's a disposition/inclination to follow your husband's leadership

Remember TV show, "All in the Family"

I watched growing up; disgusts me now – demeaning toward marriage

Your marriage should not look like Archie & Edith Bunker's; nor Gloria & Meathead's

Archie – blustering, ill-mannered, domineering husband who expected to be served

Edith – fearful, enabling, at your beckon and call wife

Meathead – passive, spineless, lazy husband

Gloria – master at subtle manipulation and arguments

Whether it's the self-interest Archie, manipulation of Gloria, the fear Edith, passiveness of

Meathead – all are wrong

### 3 Common Objections to Submitting

1. What if my husband doesn't lead? What if he's passive in his role?

Just because your husband is passive in his leadership . . .

Doesn't mean you should become aggressive in yours

He will never lead if you hold the reins

2. What if my husband is a jerk? What if he doesn't deserve my submission?

His lack of love toward you, does not excuse your lack of submission toward him

God will hold him responsible for his role, and you for yours

Do the right thing knowing that your obedience honors the Lord, and brings blessing

3. What if he asks me to do something wrong?

That's where you draw the line; you cannot follow him into sin

Acts 5:29 – *"We must obey God rather than men."* (Peter and the apostles)

If tells you to do something contrary to Scripture, you need to lovingly/firmly resist

If threatens/physically abuses you, resist by seeking help of your church and the state

But even in resisting his leadership of sinfulness, you should show him your dislike of doing so, and your longing for him to lead in righteousness

Wives, honor the Lord in your marriage by submitting to your husband

Husbands, honor the Lord in your marriage by tenderly loving your wife

Overflowing at home means you . . .

### **Please the Lord in your family (v20-21)**

The two directives go hand in hand here . . .

Children obeying and parents nurturing

- Children (students!), please the Lord by obeying your parents

This was the most often quoted verse to me by my mom – at least that’s what I remember

The primary motive for obeying your parents is not to please *them* . . .

It’s to please the *Lord*, your Lord; the one you profess to follow

The one who died for you out of *obedience* to the Father

If you don’t want to obey them because you think they’re clueless, or you don’t like them

Then obey them to please the *Lord*

- Parents, please the Lord by nurturing your kids

In Paul’s day, the Romans beat their kids pretty severely

Fathers were the ones doing most of the beating

That’s why Paul says . . .

21 – *Father, do not provoke your children*

Exasperate, drive them to anger, hate, or resentment

We do this as parents when we . . .

Constantly reprimand/criticize them or consistently ignore them

One is as destructive as the other

Ignoring them produces selfishness/self-centeredness

Constant punishment/criticism produces self-hatred or self-assertion

Either way, you provoke them to sin and risk discouragement

The way we guard against that is by being intentional about *nurturing* them (grow, devlp.)

### **7 Guidelines to Nurture Your Child**

1. Affirm them early and often

Don’t be constantly critical; Do your kids think they can never please you?

2. Establish boundaries

They want to know where the limits of behavior are

Boundaries make them feel secure

3. Teach principles, not rules

Principles teach them to think for themselves

Let them fail at applying them – failure is often the best teacher

4. Discipline consistently

Follow through having established the boundaries; Find what works for each child

Punish for rebellion, not accidents

5. Model responsibility

Keep up with household tasks; Give them responsibility – one size does not fit all

6. Let them be kids

Give age appropriate freedoms; Don’t be parent out of fear

7. Disciple intentionally

Be intentional about teaching them the ways of God

Eph 6:4 – bring them up in the instruction of the Lord

Encourage devotions; model it; do a study with them; memorize verses with them

Please the Lord in your family by nurturing your kids

Children, please the Lord in your family by obeying your parents

Overflowing means you . . .

### **Serve the Lord in your workplace (v 3:22-4:1)**

While slavery has been abolished in our culture, there are some principles here that still apply in our workplaces

Important to understand – This passage does NOT imply that slavery is okay

Sometimes in scripture, God temporarily allows for undesirable relationships without endorsing them as permanent ideals

Like divorce – allows it, but not best (Matt 19:8)

Or lawsuits among believers – strongly discourages it (1 Cor 6:1-8)

Same re slavery – temporarily allowed, but not permanently endorsed

One of the reasons he doesn’t come right out and condemn slavery is because . . .

Christianity already rumored to be anti-family, subversive, and detrimental to society

Paul doesn’t want to add fuel to that fire at this early stage of the church

But he does say there are some things that need to be changed

So he sows subtle seeds for destroying it by transforming the relationships involved

Back to the principles that apply to us

If Christian slaves in the worst of situations were expected to live by these guidelines. . .

How much more should you and I do so, regardless of our circumstances?

- Employees, serve the Lord by showing integrity and hard work in your job

Tomorrow morning, you either need to continue showing integrity and strong work ethic

Or you need to start doing so – pretty simple

### **24 – You are serving the Lord Christ**

In your work, as a Christian, you are serving the *Lord* first and foremost

So many people rationalize dishonesty, petty theft, lack of productivity, shoddy work . . .

Because they think they’re mistreated, the company can easily afford it, their boss is a pompous incompetent, company policies are burdensome and ridiculous, everybody’s doing it

Is that you? I hope not

But before you’re quick to exempt yourself, let’s do a little self-assessment

### **Ask yourself these questions**

1. Do I work the same way with my boss absent as I do when they’re present?

If no, then you’re not serving the Lord

22 – Genuine servants of the Lord are not *people-pleasers*, working just to be noticed

2. Do I work grudgingly, or with a good attitude?

If grudgingly, you’re not serving the Lord

22 – *obey in everything with sincerity of heart* – integrity

22 – *fearing the Lord* – showing him reverence/respect (you wear his name)

3. Do I do just what it takes to get by, or do I give a 110% all the time?  
If it's just what it takes, you're not serving the Lord  
23 – *work heartily* – do everything with your whole heart  
23 – *as for the Lord and not for men*  
If your boss is a Jewish carpenter, then you better act like it every day w/ 110% effort
4. Am I motivated more by money or by my relationship with Jesus?  
If it's money, you're not serving the Lord  
24 – *from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward*  
The inheritance is your salvation – your personal relationship with Jesus that brings life to the full and life forever  
It's also the hope of a divine blessing from God  
“Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of my presence forever.”

Hope you're on the right side of those questions, because God is explicit (25) . . .  
You'll get what's coming to you for not working diligently and with integrity  
Can't ignore God's desire for honest, hard work

I used to trade with guy who was the epitome of the wrong side of these questions  
We nicknamed him slacker; spent more time out of the pit than in it  
Spent more effort smoozing others in an effort to land a better paying position than he did trading  
He was so slick about it all; I had no respect for him; disgusts me to this day  
Is that you in your workplace? If so, will you cut it out?  
Because you're bringing shame to my Lord

Serve the Lord by showing integrity and hard work in your job

The second principle has to do with those who are responsible for the work of others

- Employers/Managers serve the Lord by treating people justly and fairly

1 – treat your slaves justly and fairly

Justly and fairly don't always mean nice

Mean giving what is legitimately deserved

Rewarding good work; Reprimanding poor work; Firing if necessary

Mean telling them what you expect before you judge their performance

Mean taking their life circumstances into account

Mean treating them like you would like to be treated

Reason for this kind of fair and just treatment . . .

The Lord will have the last say

You WILL be held accountable for how you treat your people

You can't treat people like disposable property and expect God to excuse or bless it

Genuinely love them and care about them, and show it

Summary

Fill Up! and Overflow at Home by . . .

Honoring the Lord in your marriage

Pleasing the Lord in your family

Serving the Lord in your workplace