



“Submission’s Paradox” - May 17, 2026

Sermon by Pastor Ruthie Seiders

Group Leader Notes

What does biblical submission really mean and how does Jesus transform our relationships? In this message, “Submission’s Paradox,” Pastor Ruthie walks through Colossians 3:18–4:1 and explores one of the most challenging passages in the New Testament: the “household codes.” Rather than promoting control or inequality, this teaching uncovers the radical, Christ-centered vision behind mutual submission, sacrificial love, dignity, and service. From marriage and parenting to leadership and justice, Pastor Ruthie shows how Jesus reshapes every relationship through humility and love. This message also honestly addresses difficult topics including slavery in Scripture, racism in church history, modern human trafficking, and what it means to follow Jesus in a way that honors the image of God in every person.

Main Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:18–4:1, Ephesians 5:21–33

Group Discussion

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

1. **Pastor Ruthie said that scripture should “interpret scripture.”** Why is it important when reading difficult Bible passages within their larger context instead of isolating a single verse?
2. **The message emphasized Paul’s call to “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”** How does mutual submission differ from the way people often think about authority, power, or relationships today?
3. **This section of Colossians 3 emphasizes the importance of serving others the way Jesus served us.** What makes sacrificial love difficult in close relationships, and what helps you practice it?
4. **In the text we can see the connection of our faith to both personal relationships and larger social issues like racism, foster care, and human trafficking.** What responsibility do Christians have to respond to injustice in the world around them?
5. **Pastor Ruthie described “submission’s paradox” — that as we submit to one another in Christ, we actually experience freedom to love and serve like Jesus.** Where might God be inviting you to practice humility, respect, or selfless service this week?

Let's Pray

<https://youtu.be/1Fiy3P8Eil4?si=GW4xOnH4kvBt4gYs>

