

[The Book Of Colossians](#)
Chapters 3, Verses 17-25 & Chapter 4
“Whatever you do, Do it unto the Lord”

Return To
All Commentary

Ever heard of “**John Spurgeon?**”

Not many have. Most Christians have heard of **Charles Spurgeon**, the famous British Pastor who the Lord used to change Millions of Lives.

John Spurgeon was the father of Charles Spurgeon. He himself was also the son of a Pastor.

The father, John, never achieved the fame that his son had. The father was never used by Jesus like his son Charles was.

Even if His son Charles had never been greatly used by the Lord, the father John Spurgeon would have continued faithfully to serve the Lord.

There are hundreds of thousands of common everyday ordinary people serving and following Jesus just like John Spurgeon.

The world goes on and turns without ever having heard of them.

But what if men like John Spurgeon were not faithful and hung in there to faithfully serve the Lord.

What if he never taught by his example, his son Charles how to faithfully and patiently follow and serve Jesus?

What if John Spurgeon was not content with the little town that he lived in, the small church he served in, what if he had become discouraged and given up?

Then the world would never have know “Charles Haddon Spurgeon”, and the powerful way the Lord used Him to touch so many lives.

[Colossians 3](#)

17 **And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

I hate to be the one to break the news to you guys, but the Lord has got your number! He knows exactly what your male personality needs, and He knows exactly what it is that drives you crazy.

1. **The lord created man** with a desire to be the provider, protector and overseer of the family.
2. **As a result**, a husband gets very upset and uncomfortable when his authority is challenged.
3. **Now, being in charge of the family** and having the authority **is not a problem for the man who is also under the authority of Jesus.**
4. **A man who has placed himself under Jesus authority** is a Servant to his wife, and his family.
5. **He is not thinking of his own needs first**, he is thinking of his wife's needs first, how he can bless her, how he can nurture her.
6. **As a result**, the woman who has a husband under the authority of Jesus, is a blessed woman.
7. **This command in verse 18 then**, is for the woman who knows that her husband is trying to be like Jesus, and is trying to place his entire life under Jesus authority.
8. **This wife is to allow her husband** to have the authority that the Lord has given to him and not seek to overrule his leadership.
9. **In doing this**, the wife who is also submitted to Jesus, is obeying the Lord as He has organized the family with Jesus as the head, the husband taking his direction from Jesus, the wife taking her direction from her husband.
10. **Now, this does not mean** that a wife has no input in the marriage, in fact it really means just the opposite.
 - **A Husband that is seeking** to be like Jesus and is under His authority, will be keenly in tune with his wife's heart.
 - **He will know what is important to her**, how she feels about a particular situation, Where her heart is.
 - **If He does not know**, before he makes any decision, he will always talk to her about it first, considering her feelings and opinion.
 - **He takes the information that he receives from his wife**, goes before the Lord and prays about it and asks Him what he desires, and then makes the decision.
 - **I have discovered** that the Lord gave me a wife to be a check and balance for me. Every time that she feels uncomfortable about a particular thing, if I listen to her, I find that she was correct.
 - **Women have a fine tuned spiritual sense** that I do not believe a man has. If a husband will listen to his wife's "intuition", he will be a happier man.

As a result of the man under Jesus authority considering his wife in this way, it is usually very easy for a woman to submit herself to this kind of authority.

If a woman will not submit herself to a Godly man like I have described, then she is really rebelling against the Lord's authority in her life. **Jesus is the one that said that a woman should do this.**

1. **The reason there is this placement** of the man as the leader of the family, is that there can only be one person who is the head of the family, just as there is one head on your body.

2. **Imagine what it would be like** for your body if it had two heads always trying to take over, it would be utter chaos and confusion.
3. **It is an awesome and difficult position** to hold the responsibility for the entire family under your authority.

Luke 12:48

...For everyone **to whom much is given, from him much will be required**; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

Men, Jesus is going to hold you accountable for the spiritual well being of your family.

1. **I can always tell the spiritual condition of a man by his wife.** If she is being loved and nurtured properly by her husband, then she will be a happy and generally fulfilled woman.
2. **If a man is being selfish,** not taking the time to spiritually nurture his wife and love her the way that Jesus said to love her, then she will very often be depressed, bitter and lack the joy she should have.
3. **Now I am not saying** that it is all the man's responsibility, a woman is also responsible herself for seeking the Lord everyday in her life. She is to spend her own private time in prayer, the Word and in fellowship with other believers.

The Lord made it very simple for us, He gave just one command to the Husband and one command to the wife.

1. **Wives,** submit yourselves to your own husband.
2. **Husbands,** love your wife.

Men, loving your wife, is your primary ministry in your life. If you are not loving her the right way, you have no business being involved in any other form of ministry.

1. **First go home** and begin to love her in the unselfish way that Jesus loves His church, then you can go out and minister to others.
2. **The bible even says** that if a man is not treating his wife the right way, the Lord may not listen to his prayers!

1 Peter 3:7

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

So, Ladies who are married, you are to submit yourself to your husbands authority, even as you submit to Jesus authority.

1. **What if your husband is not walking with the Lord** the way that He should be?
I am so glad you asked that question!

2. **Remember how I have taught you** that the way the Lord works is the opposite of the way that we would do things?
3. **Ladies, you will win your husbands obedience to the Lord** not by lecturing him, or nagging him or by not speaking to him or by withdrawing your love and affection from him.
4. **You win a man to the obedience of Jesus by** PRAYING FOR HIM, and by your own conduct before the Lord.

1 Peter 3:1-4

1 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, **without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,**

2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—

4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God

Do you know how Elsie gets me to change my behavior?

1. **She prays for me!** She gets the Lord after me when I get off track.
2. **She intercedes for me** before the Lord by praying for me.
3. **She first asks the Lord** if there is something in her that He should change, she searches her own heart first, removes that plank in her own eye, then asks the Lord to take the little splinter out of my eye, so that My heart can be changed.

Now Elsie would be the first to tell you that she is by no means a perfect woman or a perfect wife. But she is trying to follow Jesus, and she is trying to love me and submit to my authority. Many times she fails, many times she doesn't first pray, but she is trying every day...

That is all that you can ask...

So verses 18 and 19, the Lord made it simple, just 2 commands that the Lord gave to us:

(The Lord did this because men are so dumb, they can only remember one command!)

Colossians 3:18-19

18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

Notice also men, "DO NOT BE BITTER TOWARDS HER"

1. **Men are just naturally rougher** than women are.
2. **Men are more abrupt and harsh** than a woman is.
3. **Men do not always consider** "FEELINGS" when they have something to say.

Often this is due to the fact that in this world, men are expected to be tough, strong and toe the line.

1. **So when a man comes home, it might be hard for him to shift into a different attitude of gentleness and understanding.**
2. **Many times a man has had to be harsh and firm all day to survive, and so when he comes home he is harsh and firm with his wife and children.**

If we do this men, we are failing to love the way we are supposed to.

1. **While you are on the way home, be praying** that you will change from the harsh and firm man that you had to be today, to a loving, gentle, kind and considerate man that Jesus commands you to be.
2. **When you walk in that door,** you are to **“Be Jesus to your wife and Children.”**
3. **Your heart needs to be prepared** when you walk in the door, not after you get home.
4. **When you walk in the door, you are now** **“The high Priest”** of your family. You are to nurture them and bless them.
5. **When you walk in the door, you are to sit down with your wife** who hasn't talked to a grown up all day.
6. **Find out how her day went,** listen to her for awhile, **Pay attention without the TV or Newspaper.** Listen to what is behind her words, Listen to her heart.
7. **Be interested in her life,** her day, her feelings.
8. **Be a good listener.**
9. **Don't interrupt her.**
10. **Don't try to fix her.**
11. **Just listen** and shut up for while.
12. **Then tell her about your day,** not just facts, but **“HOW YOU FEEL”** about what happened during your day.

Take a few minutes and talk to your kids, then change clothes and play with them for awhile.

After you have done these things, then eat dinner with them, and talk some more to them.

When the kids are asleep, and you have helped your wife with the dishes and the clean up, **then you can sit down and relax.**

1. **This will probably be the first time** that your wife also sat down all day, so don't feel so deprived.
2. **Don't let your flesh tell you that** **“YOU DESERVE TO RELAX WHEN YOU COME HOME, YOU WORKED HARD ALL DAY!”**
3. **Hey, Men, your wife worked hard all day too!** **Stop whining and Love her the way you are supposed to!**

Poor guys! I Have really been tough on them today!

You want the leadership men, you got it, this is what leadership is all about...

Luke 12:48

...For everyone to whom much is given, **from him much will be required**; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

Luke 22:25-26

25 Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men order their people around, and yet they are called 'friends of the people.'

26 But **among you, those who are the greatest should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant.**

If you are not

And Men, I am not speaking to you this morning as one who has perfected all of this. I struggle every day with all of these things, just like you do.

1. But I am trying, every day.
2. I am not content to remain the same.
3. I want to love my wife and children the way that Jesus does.
4. I will not be content until I have done so!

Colossians 3:20

20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

So, exhortation to children also to obey their parents.

You know in Israel, they had very little childhood rebellion. They had a very simple solution to the problem.

Deuteronomy 21:18-21

18 **"If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them,**

19 then his father and his mother **shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city.**

20 And they shall say to the elders of his city, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard."

21 Then **all the men of his city shall stone him to death** with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.

1. **If a child persistently rebelled against their parents,** they took that child outside of the city gates and stoned them to death.
2. **As a result,** there was very little difficulty with children obeying their parents then.

As we have been going through the book of Judges during our mid week study, I was struck by the fact that the generation of children that grew up after Joshua died, did not know the Lord.

1. **As a result**, they also did not obey their parents.
2. **As a result they grew up** and had rebellious kids of their own.
3. **As a result, the whole nation** forgot the Lord.
4. **As a result they were destroyed** by their enemies.

It all began with the fact that parents were not teaching their kids about Jesus.

This is the biggest problem today, this generation that is alive on the earth today was not taught about Jesus. They were not taught the Word of God.

1. **As a result**, our whole nation is collapsing morally from within.
2. **It is interesting** that it only took Israel a little more than 400 years, doing the very same thing, forgetting to teach their kids about the Lord, that the whole nation collapsed.
3. **I don't think America** will last 400 years before she collapses from within, morally and spiritually.

So Parents, you have a very serious responsibility to teach your kids about the Lord, and about Gods word.

Colossians 3:21

21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

What I love about the teaching and learning of Gods word is that there is such balance in it.

1. **Human beings** tend to be very unbalanced.
2. **We either do not discipline our kids at all, or we over discipline them** and they become discouraged.
3. **Here in Verse 21**, encouragement and instruction to make sure that when you discipline your children, to make sure you don't go too far.

First a child has to be taught what is right, what is wrong.

1. Then they need to be reminded what is right and what is wrong.
2. Then they need to be warned if they get off track.
3. finally they need to be disciplined when they will not listen.

When you are disciplining your child, it is important to explain to them why they are in trouble. It is not just, "Because I say so", or "I am the Boss, just do it".

1. **Discipline** without any explanation is unreasonable.

2. **We explain** why they are in trouble.
3. **We explain that we warned** them.
4. **We explain the because they did the wrong thing** and did not listen when they were warned, they will face the punishment.
5. **Punishment if it is correct** has a very specific outcome.
 - To correct the behavior.
 - To remove the guilt.

Man and woman were created with a sense of right and wrong. When we do something wrong, we know it, and we always feel guilt.

1. **One of the biggest reasons** in the Old Testament that the Lord established the law of the sacrifice, **was to remove a person's guilt.**
2. **The person laid their hands** on the head of the innocent animal and transferred their guilt to the animal who was then killed for their sin, they were then free from guilt.
3. **They could now feel like they could approach** God again and have fellowship with him, having had their sin cleansed.
4. **When we have done wrong** and know it, **unless we have a way to eliminate the guilt, we can begin to develop all kinds of problems,**

I am convinced the mental hospitals are full of all kinds of people who are sick, because they could not find a solution to their guilt.

1. **Because the guilt was unresolved,** they develop all kinds of strange behaviors.
 - Depression.
 - Multiple personalities.
 - Paranoia
 - Stop speaking or interacting with anyone.
2. **The solution to their guilt** and the symptoms that put them in the hospital is to find that Jesus paid the price for their sin, believe that and confess their guilt to Jesus.
3. **Jesus forgives the wrong,** the person is restored to a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

1. So, through an explanation of the wrong.
2. A punishment for the wrong.
3. The child is free from the guilt.
4. They can go on without guilt or fear.

Colossians 3:22-25

22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,
24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

In verse 22, we see the real reason and motivation that should be behind everything we do.

1. **It is a trait of human beings** that we only do our best when someone is watching.
2. **As soon as the boss is gone**, we relax, slack off, or just good off.
3. **For the one who is following Jesus**, we need to remember who is really the BOSS, who is LORD of our life, Jesus.
4. **He is always watching**, every idle word and thought and reason, we will have to answer to Jesus for them.
5. **We always do the best we can, not out of fear, not out of duty, not out of guilt, we do our best because we want to give Jesus our best.**
6. **Jesus left heaven** died a horrible death for us, He gave to us His very best, so we want to give to Him our very best.

Colossians 3:23-25

23 And **whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men**,
24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality

Colossians 4

1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Chapter 4 begins the same way...

1. **If you have someone under your authority** at work, or even in the ministry, **be just and right and fair**, because you also are under your master and Lord, Jesus.
2. **Even though you might be in charge**, according to Jesus, this means that **you are also a servant**.
3. **You are not to act like you are “The Boss”**, you teach those who are under your authority **by setting the right example**.
4. **Whatever you would ask those under you to do**, are you willing yourself to also do it?

Colossians 4:2-4

2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,

4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

Reminders to daily be talking to the Lord and listening to Him also, in prayer.

1. **Paul says, “Earnestly”**, this means with your heart into your prayer,
2. **“Being vigilant”** means to **“Be watchful and alert”**, especially to watch out for danger or for something that is wrong”.
3. **One of the most awesome purposes of prayer** is to use it before something bad happens.
4. **So often we only pray after something bad happens**, “Lord if you will just get me out of this one, I promise to never do it again”.
5. **No!, Instead...**Lord, I am going to this place today, give me wisdom, show me what to do when I get there, protect me from harm...”

Colossians 4:5

5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

“Walking in wisdom towards those who are outside”

1. **Did you know** that the moment that you decided to follow Jesus, people started watching you?
2. **They are watching you** to see if Jesus is real in your life.
3. **They are watching to see** if He makes a difference.
4. **They are watching** to see what Jesus can do in the heart and life of someone who claims to believe and follow Jesus.

And so, because we know that everyone is always watching us...”We walk intelligently”.

1. **We measure every word** we say, “Is this something Jesus would say?”
2. **We measure every step**, “Is this a place that Jesus would go?”
3. **We measure every reason** for why we do everything, “Is this for Jesus, does it glorify him, and lift up His name?”

Colossians 4:6

6 Let your speech always **be with grace, seasoned with salt**, that you may know how you ought to answer each one

Salt is a very interesting chemical ingredient.

1. **It has the capacity** to prevent things from decomposing.
2. **In the early cultures of the world**, it was rubbed on meat to keep bacteria from forming on meat and rotting it.
3. **For this reason** it had the benefit of being able to preserve things.
 - Salt also has the benefit of being able to make things taste better.
 - Salt also creates thirst.

Is that the kind of words that we use as followers of Jesus?

1. **Do the choice of words** that we use, preserve people.
2. **Does our words prevent** rottenness, or create more rottenness?
3. **When we speak**, by our words, do they draw people closer to Jesus, or farther away?
4. **Does the way we talk** create a thirst in the people we are around, where they hear us talk of HOPE, FAITHFULNESS, MERCY, GOODNESS, KINDNESS, PATIENCE AND LOVE.
5. **By hearing us talk of such things**, it creates a thirst in them for these things?

There is a way to talk that is very graceful, that is, very loving, kind and generous, but at the same time, is pure and upright and good.

1. **When we choose conversation** that is wholesome and good, it has a way of preventing rotten conversation from beginning.
2. **When we are very loving, kind and generous** in our speech before other people, they will also tend to speak this way.
3. **If they don't**, they will feel convicted in their heart to stop speaking the way they do.
4. **Either way**, the right choice of words, can preserve and season peoples hearts.

Now Paul finished the book of Colossians with his final greetings and words of encouragement...

Colossians 4:7-18

7 **Tychicus**, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.

8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts,

9 with **Onesimus**, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.

10 **Aristarchus** my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him),

11 and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

12 **Epaphras**, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

13 For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.

14 Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.

15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.

Remember that Paul is writing this letter to real people just like you, with the same kinds of real struggles that you also go through as a follower of Jesus.

1. **These men and women** encouraged Paul and Helped him.
2. **It is important** to remember that you are not alone in your struggles.
3. **Look around you**, Jesus gave to you these friends to also encourage you and help you to make it to the end.
4. **This is why it is so important for you** to come and then get involved in other people lives, and allow them to get involved in your life.

Tychicus: Followed Paul, helped Paul, carried the offering to Paul that the churches gave to help Paul.

1. **Paul commended Tychicus for his leadership gifts**, and yet Tychicus never lead, he followed Paul.
2. **When our intent is to love, encourage, support**, and defend those who Jesus is using, then we are a leader.
3. **Those that Jesus uses**, could never be used a greatly, if they din not have those in the background praying for them, encouraging them, supporting them financially, and defending them from attacks.

Onesimus was a slave that had run away from his master Philemon.

1. **Onesimus accompanied Tychicus** when he traveled helping Paul.
2. **Onesimus was used by Jesus**, even though he had only been just a slave in his life.
3. **Jesus can use anyone who makes themselves available to Him**. The less qualified you think you are, the better qualified Jesus thinks you are.

Aristarchus: Had been a prisoner with Paul when he was arrested in Ephesus in Acts 19.

1. **Aristarchus watched how Paul acted** when he was in prison, and this led him to Jesus.
2. **Now Paul calls Aristarchus** “A fellow Prisoner”, because they both belonged to Jesus and were going to serve Him no matter what it cost them.
3. **Aristarchus went to Prison with Paul** and stood behind him. He sailed with Paul to face imprisonment again, and was an example of faithfulness Strength and Loyalty supporting the one that the Lord was Using.

Epaphras: Was one of those guys who kept the church together and functioning.

1. **He is spoken of** as “Always wrestling in his prayers” for other believer.
2. **No matter what was happening**, Epaphras showed deep love and concern for every believer he knew.
3. **What made him such an awesome servant**, was his never ending prayer for people.

16 **Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church** of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

17 And say to **Archippus**, “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.

Most likely Archippus was a roman soldier that was saved at the Colossian church.

1. **It seems as though** he was given some tasks to do to serve the Lord. Here Paul is encouraging him to take those tasks seriously.
2. **We need to remember** that the Lord has placed us here because He wants us here.
3. **He has things for us to do, and He wants for us to be faithful to them**, till He comes for us.

Colossians 4:18

18 This salutation by my own hand—Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen.