**STRUCTURE**

*From Allie:*

*Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus! (3:17)*

1. Wives and Husbands (3:18-19): Wives and husbands are called to serve the Lord in the marital relationship.

a. Wives: submit to husbands as is fitting in the Lord (18)

b. Husbands: love wives as Christ loves the church (19)

2. Children and Parents (3:20-21): Children and parents are called to serve the Lord as they serve in these earthly roles.

a. Children obey your parents in order that you may please the Lord!

b. Parents (father’s addressed specifically) are to encourage their children to obey them, thus pleasing the Lord, through not provoking/embittering them.

3. Bondservants (3:22-25): Bondservants are called to serve the Lord by serving earthly authority.

a. “Serve with sincerity of heart, *fearing the Lord*”

b. “Whatever you do, work heartily as for the Lord and not for men”

c. It is the Lord who gives reward and pays back wrongdoer without partiality

4. Masters (4:1): Masters are called to serve their Master in heaven, by treating those under their authority justly and fairly.

*From Kelsie:*

3:18–19  Pleasing the Lord in the marriage relationship

3:20–21  Pleasing the Lord in the child-parent relationship

3:22–4:1 Pleasing the Lord in the bondservant-master relationship

**UNIFYING-THEME SENTENCE**

*From Allie:* As believers we are called to serve the Lord and depend on Him in the earthly roles he has given to each one of us.

*From Kelsie:* Believer, aim to please the Lord Christ in each of your relationships, both in your family and in your workplace.

**AUTHOR’S AIM**

*From Allie:* Through specific instructions given to wives and husbands, children and parents, and bondservants and masters, Paul aims to remind the Colossian church that as they serve earthly authorities in their earthly roles, they are ultimately serving the Lord.

*From Kelsie:* Paul aims to show how a believer can practically aim to please the Lord in each of their relationships, both in their family and in their workplace.