

Message Reflection Guide

Who Wears the Pants? | Colossians 3:18-4:1



Begin with Prayer

Pray that the Holy Spirit would illuminate the words of Scripture so that you may understand how God is communicating with you.

Conversation Starter

What is one household tradition you grew up with that seemed normal then but now makes you laugh or shake your head?

Read Colossians 3:18 – 4:1

Discussion

Why do you think Paul addressed these specific household roles?

Paul's teaching here was counter-cultural in the Roman world. In what ways is it still counter-cultural today?

Husbands are called to "love" their wives with agape love. How is this love different from other types of love (phileo, eros, etc.)? How does Jesus model this for us?

Paul also addresses children, parents, workers, and employers. What common thread ties all these instructions together? How does the gospel change these relationships?

Think about the roles you currently hold (spouse, parent, child, employee, employer). What is one specific way you can reflect the gospel better in that role this week?

Challenge

1. Lead with love; not power

Whether you're a spouse, parent or boss – leadership is measured by how well you serve. Biblical submission is never demanded. It's offered in love. Ask yourself "am I controlling the ones I'm leading? Or am I lifting them up and discipling them?"

2. Submit with love; not obligation

Biblical submission isn't passive compliance or fearful obedience. It's a voluntary act of love, rooted in trust and devotion to Christ. Ask yourself: "Am I submitting out of duty—or out of a desire to reflect Jesus in this relationship?"

Prayer

Father, Thank You for designing families and communities for our good and Your glory. Jesus, thank You for modeling humility, sacrificial love, and servant leadership. Holy Spirit, please empower us to submit with love and lead with love in every relationship this week. In Jesus's name, Amen.