

## MAIN POINT

*The gospel has a profound effect on how we live with and treat those closest to us.*

## INTRODUCTION

Who was the most well respected person in your home when you were growing up—your mom, your dad, one of your siblings, or you?

What rule did your parents establish that caused you to be punished most often when you were a teenager? Why did you choose to break that rule?

**In today's passage, Paul gave instruction to those in authority and those under authority. The way we live for God should permeate all areas of life. We will consider how this impacts our households, work places, and beyond.**

## DISCUSSION

> **READ COLOSSIANS 3:18-24; 4:1.**

How would you define the word "submissive" as it is used in this passage?

Ephesians 5:22–23 makes it clear that husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. How would you describe Christ's love for the church? What sacrifices did He make for her?

Why do you think it is fitting in God's eyes for a wife who is an equal to her husband to submit to him?

According to verse 20, why should children obey their parents? Why do you think many children, especially teenagers, are more apt to follow the lead of their peers than the expectations of their parents?

Obedience is the simple process of hearing, understanding, and responding. How can we as parents speak in such a way that we gain a hearing and are clearer in our spoken expectations, so that our children understand and are more likely to respond as requested?

To exasperate means to provoke or irritate. How might fathers exasperate their children?

What does this passage teach about how those in authority should live with those under their authority, whether at home or in a work environment?

How do you think the Christian slaves in Paul's audience would have reacted to the idea of receiving an inheritance? What does this teach you about the upside down nature of God's kingdom?

## APPLICATION

What changes are needed in your household or workplace to point people to Christ in the way you live each day?