

Title: Rules for Engagement

Text: Colossians 3:18-4:1

Target: *"If our faith doesn't work at home, then our faith doesn't work"* (Anonymous)

- I. **The Submission of a Wife:** *"Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."* (Vs. 18)
 - A. **Doesn't mean Inequality:** Equal before God, for all must submit to God's Authority.
 - B. **Doesn't permit oppression:** Not property or possession, but to be viewed in value and worth.
 - C. **Does speak to provide Support:** Empowering Spiritual Headship the husband.

- II. **The Selflessness of a Husband:** *"Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them."* (Vs. 19)
 - A. **Sacrifice for her:** *"love her as Christ loved the church"* (Eph. 5:25)
 - B. **Sanctify her:** *"washing of water with the word"* (Eph. 5:26)
 - C. **Sustain her:** *"love their wives as their own bodies"* (Eph. 5:28)
 - D. **Satisfies her:** *"but nourishes and cherishes"* (Eph. 5:29)

- III. **The Sentiment of a Child:** *"Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."* (Vs. 20)
 - A. **Explanation of Obedience:** *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right"* (Ephesians 6:1)
 1. Given by God to be authority.
 2. Come under the authority to listen, learn, and be led. (Proverbs 1:8, 6:20)
 - B. **Expectation of Honor:** *"Honor your father and mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you"* (Ex. 20:12)

- IV. **The Sensitivity of a Father:** *"Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."* (Vs. 21)
 - A. **Definition of Provoke:** stir up, irritate, exasperate, or nagging.
 - B. **Descriptions of Provoking:** (unfair comparisons, unkind comments, unclear standards, unexplained discipline, unrighteous example, uptight control, unified identity)

- V. **The Service of an Employee:** *"Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord."* (Vs. 22)
 - A. **Work Heartily:** *"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,"* (Vs.23)
 - B. **Rich Reward:** *"knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."* (Vs. 24)
 - C. **Never Overlooked:** *"For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality."* (Vs. 25)

VI. The Stewardship of a Supervisor: *“Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.”* (Vs. 4:1)

- A. Be the Example:** Say as you say, do as you do.
- B. Clarify the Expectation:** Clarity is Kindness
- C. Speak with Exaltation:** Call people up, not just out.
- D. Compensate within Exhortation:** Marketplace Value.

Takeaway: *“Become the kind of leader that people would follow voluntarily, even if you had no title or position”* Brian Tracy