

Col.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.

3:18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

3:21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

3:22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

3:23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

3:25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

4:1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

November 16, 2025 Colossians 3:17–4:1

Sermon Title: “You Are Serving the Lord Christ”

【From Today's Sermon】

“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” I believe this is a concise statement about the practice of faith.

“In the name of Christ.”

When someone says, “I have come as the Father's representative,” it means acting as that person's agent, fulfilling their role. Doing everything “in the name of the Lord Jesus” surely conveys that same meaning.

Today's passage gives specific commands to wives, husbands, children, servants, and masters. “Serve and obey” is written as what is fitting for those in the Lord and pleasing to Him. Verse 17 repeats the words from verse 17: “Do everything from the heart, as working for the Lord and not for men,” echoing “in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

To obey as unto the Lord means that husbands, fathers, and masters should also be worthy of such obedience. This means loving as God loves us, encouraging rather than causing frustration or disappointment, treating others justly and fairly rather than capriciously, and all of this is what God first demonstrated to us. “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.” It means seeing God, not people, and serving and obeying Him in gratitude.

Introduction: Serving God as He Served Us

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

2:10 For you were not chosen from among the people to be God's people, but you were chosen from among the people to be God's people. You were not shown mercy, but now you have received mercy.

2:11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh that wage war against the soul.

2:12 Keep a good report among the Gentiles, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to the emperor as the supreme authority,

2:14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do good.

2:15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may silence the ignorance of foolish people.

2:16 Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.

2:17 Show respect to everyone, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

2:18 Servants, serve your masters with sincere fear, not only those who are kind and considerate, but also those who are harsh.

2:19 For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God.

2:20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and endure it, this is commendable before God.

2:21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

2:22 Christ committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

2:23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but committed himself to him who judges justly.

2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

2:25 For you have come to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls, who was pierced for your

sins, so that you might receive healing through His wounds.

3:1 Likewise, wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word,

3:2 they may be won over without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

3:3 Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or putting on fine clothing—

3:4 but the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in God's sight.

3:5 For this is how the holy women of old adorned themselves, as they hoped in God.

3:6 For example, Sarah served Abraham, calling him lord. And you have become her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with your wives with understanding, giving honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

3:8 Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be of the same judgment, have the same love, be of one mind, and of one accord.

3:9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

12:11 Be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

12:12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, and be constant in prayer.

12:13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

12:16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own estimation.

12:17 Never repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

12:19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

12:20 On the contrary, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. By doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1 Corinthians 7:10 To the married I give this command— It is not I who commands, but the Lord: A wife must not separate from her husband.

7:11 (But if she does separate, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband.) And a husband must not divorce his wife.

7:12 To the rest I say—it is not the Lord who says this, but I—if any brother has an unbelieving wife, and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her.

7:13 Likewise, if a woman has an unbelieving husband and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him.

7:14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.

7:15 But if the unbeliever leaves, let him leave. A brother or a sister is not bound in such cases. God has called you to live in peace.

7:16 For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

7:17 But each one should live as a human being has received from the Lord, and as God has called him or her. This is my rule in all the churches.

John 13:1 Before the Passover feast, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

13:2 During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray him,

13:3 Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.

13:4 So he got up from the supper table, took off his outer garment, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

13:5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

13:6 When he came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

13:7 Jesus answered him, “You do not know now what I am doing, but afterward you will understand.”

13:8 Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

13:9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head!"
13:10 Jesus replied, "Those who have had a bath are completely clean; they need only to wash their feet, for they are already clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you."
13:11 He knew who was going to betray him, and that is why he said, "Not all of you are clean."
13:12 After he had washed their feet, he put on his outer garment again, returned to his place, and said to them, "Do you understand what I have done for you?
13:13 You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, for that is what I am.
13:14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
13:15 I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you.
13:16 Truly, I say to you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.
13:17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Matthew 20:20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to him with her sons, knelt before him, and asked him for something.

20:21 He said to her, "What do you want?" She replied, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one at your right and one at your left, in your kingdom."
20:22 Jesus replied, "You don't know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" They said to him, "We can."
20:23 Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not mine to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."
20:24 When the ten heard this, they were indignant with the two brothers.
20:25 So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.
20:26 But it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant,
20:27 and whoever desires to be first among you shall be slave of all.
20:28 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.
4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
4:9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

4:10 Not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Herein lies love.

4:11 Beloved, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

4:12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Philemon 1:8 For I could have written to you with some authority in Christ, to do what is required of you,

1:9 but I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. Paul, an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus,

1:10 begs you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment.

1:11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is useful both to you and to me.

1:12 I am sending him back to you, that is, my very heart.

1:13 I kept him with me, so that he might serve in my place on your behalf while I am imprisoned for the gospel.

1:14 But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that your good deed might not be forced but voluntary.

1:15 Perhaps this is why he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever—

1:16 And now he is no longer sent to you merely as a servant, but more than a servant—as a beloved brother. Especially to me, but even more so to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

1:17 So if you consider me a partner in your faith, accept him as you would me.

1:18 If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to my account.

1:19 I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will repay it—not to mention that you owe me your very self.

Good morning, everyone.

We are now halfway through November, and the mornings and evenings have grown quite chilly. I hope you have been keeping well. With only a month and a half left in the year, I long to await the Christmas season while praying and praising the Lord.

As we read together last week, this is the word from verse 17.

3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

I believe this is a concise expression of the practice of faith.

“In the name of Christ.”

When we say, “I have come as the Father's representative,” it means acting as a substitute for that person. But to do “everything in the name of the Lord Jesus” – isn't that what this is saying?

John 14:8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.”

14:9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

14:11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; if you do not believe, believe because of the works themselves.

14:12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

14:13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14:14 And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14:15 If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever—

14:17 He is the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Matthew 3:16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

3:17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

(New Revised Version) 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Luke 10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he himself was about to go.

10:2 He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the

harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

10:3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

John 20:19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors where the disciples were gathered were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

20:20 After saying this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

20:21 Then Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

20:23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

God the Father loved His Son deeply, declaring, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased,” and was with Jesus, granting every request He made. Jesus prayed and performed miracles to show He came from the merciful God. Yet these were not Jesus' own works, but those of God the Father dwelling within Him.

John 5:8 Jesus said to him, “Get up, take your mat, and walk.”

5:9 Immediately the man was healed; he took up his mat and walked. It was the Sabbath that day.

5:10 So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to take up your mat.”

5:11 He answered, “The man who made me well told me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’”

5:12 They asked him, “Who is the man who told you to take up your bed and walk?”

5:13 But the man did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away in the crowd that was there.

5:14 Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning, or something worse may happen to you.”

5:15 He went out and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

5:16 That is why the Jews began to persecute him, because he did this on the Sabbath.

5:17 So Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

5:30 I can do nothing on my own. I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek

not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

5:31 If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true.

5:32 There is another who testifies about me, and I know that the testimony he gives about me is true.

5:33 You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth.

5:34 I do not accept testimony from people, but I say this so that you may be saved.

5:35 John was a burning and shining lamp, and for a while you were willing to rejoice in his light.

5:36 But I have a testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father has given me to accomplish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me.

John 10:25 Jesus answered them, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that the Father has given me to accomplish—the very works that I am doing—testify about me.

10:26 But you do not believe because you are not my sheep.

10:27 My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

10:28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

10:29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

10:30 I and the Father are one."

10:31 Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him.

10:32 But Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these are you stoning me?"

10:33 The Jews answered him, "We are not stoning you for any good work, but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."

10:34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'?"

10:35 If those who received the word of God are called gods—and Scripture cannot be broken—

10:36 why do you say to the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because he said, 'I am the Son of God'?

10:37 If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me.

10:38 But if I am doing them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

John 11:11 After saying this, he said to them again, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, and I am going there to wake him up.”

11:12 The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will get better.”

11:13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but they thought he meant taking rest in sleep.

11:14 Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.

11:15 And for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. Let us go to him.”

11:32 Mary went to the place where Jesus was and found him. She fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

11:33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

11:34 “Where have you laid him?” they asked him. “Come and see,” he replied.

11:35 Jesus wept.

11:36 Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

11:37 But some of them said, “Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind, have kept Lazarus from dying?”

11:38 Once more Jesus was deeply moved. He came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.

11:39 Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead Lazarus, said to him, “Lord, by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

11:40 Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

11:41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

11:42 I know that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

11:43 As he said this, he called out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

11:44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of linen, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him and let him go.”

11:45 Many of the Jews who had come to Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

14:11 Believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. If you cannot believe that, believe because of the works themselves.

14:12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and

they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

14:13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

As the One sent, Jesus revealed God's glory through His very being, His life, and His actions. The Lord faithfully obeyed the will of God the Father, prayed, acted, and was rich in grace.

John 1:9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

1:10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

1:11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

1:13 These were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

God is truly gracious toward us, so much so that he gave us his Son, Jesus. The Son faithfully fulfilled the heart of the Father who loves him. There is no way his prayer would go unheard. Things we have never seen before will happen. But for God, nothing is impossible. The Lord accomplishes what we deem impossible. We too believe in such a God. And, loved, celebrated, blessed, and filled, we too are sent to testify to this grace and the power of the Lord. We dedicate this life and time, this very existence, to proclaiming the glory and grace of the Father God. Our prayers, lived in this way, are heard.

3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

To live as representatives of Jesus, who came as the representative of God the Father. To live following the way of the Lord Jesus in all things. This is Christianity.

3:18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

Suddenly the topic becomes personal, focusing on matters within the home: between wife and husband, parents and children, and master and slave.

Among these three roles—husband, parent, master—one might consider a common figure. For women, this could be the mother, and in very rare cases, a female slave owner.

It is written: Wives, serve your husbands; children, obey your parents along with your mother; and servants, obey your master.

On the other hand, husbands are told to love their wives and not be harsh toward them; fathers are warned not to provoke their children, lest their spirit be crushed, their heart be broken, and they become discouraged and lose heart; and masters are instructed to treat their servants justly and fairly.

Here, the next two verses shine brightly.

3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

3:24 Since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

If someone says, “Wives, submit to your husbands,” you might think, “Why to such a useless husband?!” If told to obey your father, you might hear, “Why that lousy old man?” And the world is full of people saying, “Why that terrible boss?”

Here, I want to share the teaching of Scripture: “Whatever you do, do it as a service to the Lord, not to people.”

Instead of serving and obeying the person right in front of you, what if you first think of serving and obeying the God who is above that person?

God loves us, cares for us, worries about us, and always supports us. He never gets angry; He protects and nurtures us with patience. He never loses His temper or treats us harshly. He does not act arrogantly or oppressively, forcing His will by grabbing someone by the scruff of the neck just because they are a wife, a child, or considered inferior to a husband, father, or master. He is not one to provoke frustration, crush hearts, or cause despondency. It is this God we serve. Thinking this way, can we not also serve and obey the person standing before us as His representative?

3:22 Servants, obey your earthly masters in everything. Do not serve only to please them when they are watching, but serve with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

3:24 You know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

For the sake of Jesus, who is full of love and kindness, can we not also serve the people right before us?

3:25 Whoever does wrong will be repaid for their wrongdoing. There is no favoritism.

4:1 Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

God's judgment awaits those who abuse their position and authority, straying from His will and indulging in arrogance. The all-knowing God is in heaven, desiring to fulfill His own will, and He bestows blessings upon those who align with His purpose.

We rejoice in this God and desire to work this week in a way that pleases Him, fulfilling this word.

3:22 Servants, obey your earthly masters in everything. Do not work only while being watched, trying to please people, but work with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

3:23 Work heartily, as working for the Lord and not for men,

3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. For you are serving the Lord Christ.

◇**Prayer: Heavenly Father God, we thank You for today's worship. God, You always love us, never treating us harshly, never irritating us, never causing us to despair or be disappointed, dealing with us not arbitrarily but justly and fairly. We truly thank You. Because You are such a God, we can serve You with reverence and gratitude, obeying You wholeheartedly. Guide us to serve those around us "from the heart, as unto the Lord, not unto men." Lead all who suffer into Your salvation and peace. Bless our families and our community. Use us for Your purposes. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.**