

# LIVING PLANTED: SESSION FOUR

## Christian Duty

### OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, You have called us to be holy because You are holy. Help us to fulfill the duties You have given us in the roles You have assigned to us in this life. Forgive us when we fail. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### Introduction

#### Read aloud:

*In our last lesson, we talked about how God has given us duties to perform in the home, the church and the community. We talked about how within those three areas, there are differing roles given to different people. In this lesson, we wish to talk about what the basic duties of people in those roles are. God gives to people with certain roles His authority to exercise for the good of others. Likewise, He gives to other people with differing roles people who have authority to watch over them.*

#### Read aloud Colossians 3:18–22, 4:1 (which we also read in the last lesson):

*“Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. 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. ... Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.”*

#### 1. What basic duty is given to the following groups of people: wives, children and bondservants?

The basic duty given to these people is to submit and obey their husbands, parents and masters. Before any specific duties are considered, this basic duty must be considered.

#### 2. What basic duty is given to the following groups of people: husbands, fathers, and masters?

The basic duty given to these people is to love their wives, children and bondservants. This is evidenced by not being harsh, not provoking to anger and not treating them in unjust and unfair ways. Before any specific duties are considered, this basic duty must be considered.

#### Read aloud Luke 7:2, 6–8:

*“Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. ... And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, ‘Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”*

#### 3. Does the centurion in this story have authority? What does he understand about that authority?

He does. However, he calls himself one set under authority because he understands that any authority he has is given by another. While the centurion may not have understood this fully, this is because all authority has its source in God (ROM. 13:1). Therefore, those with authority are reminded to exercise it with love and care and for the benefit of those under their authority, since this is how God uses his authority and they must answer to Him. Those given someone to be in authority over them are to remember that they are to obey because that authority ultimately is God's authority which He has given to them.

**Read aloud Ephesians 5:22–27:**

*“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”*

**4. Who is the model for all who have been given authority? What is His example?**

The model is Christ, who uses his authority selflessly for the good of those entrusted to His care. This applies not only to husbands, but also to parents, bosses, pastors and rulers.

**5. What is the model for all who have been given one with authority over them? What is its example?**

The model is the church, who obeys Christ, recognizing that all of God’s authority rests in Him. This applies not only to wives, but also to children, workers, hearers of the Word and citizens.

**Read aloud 1 Peter 1:14–16:**

*“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”*

**Read aloud Galatians 5:22–23:**

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”*

**6. We are called to be holy as God’s graciously planted people. Beyond the basic duties to love and to obey, we are also to let the fruits of the Spirit grow in all of these roles we have been given. Pick one fruit of the Spirit and answer the following question: What would this fruit look like in one of the roles we have mentioned (husband, wife, parent, child, boss, worker, pastor, hearer of the Word, ruler or citizen)?**

Answers will vary. One example would be that a husband might show kindness by relieving the wife of a duty that is particularly burdensome to her. Another might be that a child would use their joy to cheer a parent who seems down.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Almighty God, You have forgiven us of all of our sin in Jesus and have planted us in Your Kingdom. You keep us alive with the living water, Jesus. Grant that we might always bear fruit for You that benefits our neighbors. In Jesus’ name, amen.