

3. WHATEVER WE DO

Colossians 3:23–24: ²³ *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,* ²⁴ *since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

Colossians describes the kind of community God wanted them to be. Their daily lives were to be marked by **love**, **kindness**, and **compassion** in their places of **work** or **activity**, and in their **relationships** with each other.

1. Whatever you do...

^{17a} *And whatever you do,*

Application: Some Christians still feel that their tasks may be important, but that ultimately, they don't really matter to God. They live with the sense of a Sacred/Secular Divide. *Whatever you do* destroys that dichotomy. It is a clause that is repeated in Colossians 3:

- First in 3:17 where the **context** is **worship** – (verse 15 refers to the body of Christ, verse 16 refers to the message of Christ and the songs that are sung together).
- Second in 3:23 where the **context** is the **everyday working** that the household slaves found themselves in.

'Whatever you do...' whether it is in our **gathered worship** or in our **scattered everyday lives**, it all matters.

2. Do it ALL in the name of Jesus

^{17b} *... whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,*

We are each called to be Christ's ambassadors, to represent him in what we do and say.

3. Do it with ALL your heart

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

As they work with ALL their hearts – it is part of their worship, they are serving the Lord.

3. WHATEVER WE DO

Whatever we do – the 'work' of our hands, however small and insignificant it may seem – matters to God. It's part of our worship and how we serve others and bear witness to God. There can be Kingdom significance in our daily tasks and activities, however great or small.

Aim

To explore how you can grow as Jesus' representative through what you do day by day.

Recall your Sunday theme

Pray to start, then read Colossians 3:15–24, and briefly recall the sermon together, asking what stuck with each person.

Sermon reminder

The sermon focused on the idea that ‘whatever you do, do it ALL in the name of Jesus. Do it with ALL your heart.’

Many Christians live unconsciously with a sacred-secular divided way of thinking about their daily lives. Some things are accepted as being important to God, and the rest is ‘just life’. Paul will have none of that thinking – he uses the phrase ‘whatever you do’ in a worship context (15–17) and in an everyday work context (22–24).

The idea of doing something in someone else’s name is that you are acting as that person’s representative. If that person is Jesus, that changes everything! It’s this attitude to the ordinary joys and challenges of our everyday tasks and activities that can mark us out as Christians.

Explore and discuss further

In this session, allow a generous amount of time to pray together. Take about 15 minutes each for the passage and the film. Then use question seven as a springboard into praying for one another.

Explore Colossians 3:15–24

1. What difference does it make to do things ‘in the name of Jesus’ in our everyday lives?
2. In verse 17, this seems to be in the context of our gathered worship. How can our worship be offered in the ‘name of Jesus’?
3. In verse 23, Paul encourages the slaves to work ‘with all your heart, as working for the Lord.’ What does that mean for us today?

Watch the film

Watch Film 3 – Whatever (licc.org.uk/frontlinesundays) and discuss what struck each person.

4. Reflect on the things you’ve done today. How do you imagine yourself doing these things ‘for the Lord’?
5. Paul says that people will be rewarded by the Lord as they work ‘for the Lord’. What do you imagine this reward might involve?

Explore discipleship

Disciple (n): someone who is learning the ways of Jesus in their context at this moment.

6. There are lots of different ways of describing what it means to be a disciple, and this one does not include everything. However, what advantages do you see in this definition?
7. We learn the ways of Jesus as we are involved in our daily tasks. What are you learning about the ways of Jesus at the moment? Encourage your group to share how Jesus and his ways inspire them to see what to do on their frontlines, and how they can do these things in a Christ-like way.

Close in prayer

As you pray for one another, help each other offer your everyday tasks and activities to God as you work and live ‘in the name of the Lord’.