**3****17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.   
 **18** Wives, submit [*hupotassesthe*] to your husbands,   
 as is fitting in the Lord.   
 **19** Husbands, love [*agapate*] your wives, and do not be harsh with them.   
 **20** Children, obey [*hupakouo*]  your parents in everything,   
 for this pleases the Lord.   
 **21** Fathers, do not provoke [*erethizete*]  your children,   
 lest they become discouraged.   
 **22** Bondservants, obey [*hupakouete*] 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.   
**23** Whatever you do, work heartily,   
 as for the Lord and not for men,   
**24** knowing that   
 from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward.   
 You are serving the Lord Christ.   
 **4 1**Masters,   
 treat your bondservants justly and fairly,   
 knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

NOTE the Imperatives

Submit

Love

Obey

Do not provoke

Obey

Work

Serve

Treat Justly / Fairly

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**325** For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and   
 there is no partiality.

**What is agape love?**    
What does God say?

**AGAPE LOVE IS...**

* ...commanded of believers (John 13:34, 15:12, 15:17)
* ...empowered by the Holy Spirit in the heart of the surrendered saint (Gal 5:13-16, 22)
* ...commanded of Spirit filled husbands for their wives even as Jesus demonstrated for His bride, the church, giving Himself up for her (Ep 5:25)
* ...to be manifest to wives in the same way Spirit filled husbands love their bodies (Ep 5:28)
* ...the love with which the Father loved the Son and those who belong to Him (Jn 17:26)
* ...a debt we are to always seek to repay but can never fully discharge (Ro 13:8)
* ...taught by God (1Th 4:9)
* ...manifested by specific Spirit enabled actions and attitudes (1Cor 13:4-8)
* ...shown not just by words but by deeds (1Jn 3:17 … such love in action as a manifestation of genuine faith James 2:15-16)
* ...manifested by keeping God's commandments (Jn 14:15, 21, 23-24)
* ...the response Jesus called for one to demonstrate to his or her enemies (Mt 5:44)
* ...love which calls for one to love one's neighbor as one's self (Mt 19:19)
* ...love that seeks the recipient's highest good, not activated by virtue in the recipient (undeserved) (Jn 3:16)
* ...not based on affection, sentiment or emotion but upon a decision of the will
* ...given or offered even if the love is not received or reciprocated
* ...love differs from *phileo* which is based on affection
* ...love that finds its perfect expression in Jesus Christ and the Cross (Jn 3:16, 1Jn 3:16)
* ...the love of the overcomers (1Jn 5:4-5) in Revelation who did not love their life even to death (Re 12:10)
* ...love that cannot be manifested by unregenerate individuals in its true Biblical sense of being Spirit enabled. (Gal 5:22, Ro 5:5, Titus 3:5-6)

Found here: https://www.preceptaustin.org/colossians\_317-25#3:19