

Colossians

3:22–4:1



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Colossians 3:22



22 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

SLAVERY IN THE ROMAN WORLD



- ❧ No choices
- ❧ It was a cruel system that reflected the immorality of its society
- ❧ Slave were made equivalent to an animal



WHY DOES THE BIBLE NOT SPEAK AGAINST SLAVERY?

SLAVERY AND THE BIBLE | 3 Points



1. Slavery is not evil in itself
2. It is evil when you get evil men who violate God's directions
3. In mosaic Law God allowed slavery for good purposes:
 - ❧ Means of restitution could be made and a welfare system of last resort
 - ❧ One goal was to train the one enslaved to handle their eventual freedom responsibly

DISTINCTIONS WITHIN SLAVERY



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- 1.** The way people were enslaved
 - 2.** The treatment of slaves
 - 3.** Time restrictions

The Proper Attitude: Employees and Employers



1 | Employees are to **obey**

Ephesians 6:5

- ☞ We are to always obey our authority unless it contradicts Christ.
- ☞ Notice: Paul says on earth "because you still have a higher authority".

1 Pet 2:18–20

The Proper Attitude: Employees and Employers



2 | Employees are to obey respectfully

Our purpose is different; we behave differently.

☞ 1 Cor 2:3 | 2 Cor 7:15 | Phil 2:12 | Ti 2:9–10

☞ Anxious /excited to do obey

Gospel Motivation!

We demonstrate Christ-honoring behavior regardless of any short term consequences to ourselves

The Proper Attitude: Employees and Employers



3 | Employees are to obey **sincerely**

- ❧ It dishonors Christ when there is falsities in our submission
- ❧ We serve with true hearts speaks against external service that we normally produce
- ❧ How would you respond to such a boss – unreasonable, egotistical, proud, ignorant, foolish, irresponsible, lazy.

Why are we to approach work differently?



V.23– "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men"

Gospel Motivation!

Not guilt-based or constraining but a passion and respect that strives to please Jesus.

Heartily – Heart felt

- ∞ Do you see your work as sacred?
- ∞ What impression does your conduct and character at work make on unbelievers concerning Jesus Christ?

“God Pleaser” what does it mean?



Other people can never be good enough to compare

- ☞ They are not our standard
- ☞ They are not our motivation

Jesus – Our Best Boss



Eph. 6:8

☞ Paul wants to build perspective and Trust

1. Theology on Contentment:

☞ Mt 6:25–34; 1 Tim 6:8

☞ Contentment removes the snag of greed – **idolatry**

2. We live for a eternal purpose – **Mt 16:26**

☞ The Lord takes care of us now

☞ The Lord gives us reward of salvation

☞ The Lord gives us eternal life with Jesus

☞ * No Room for despair: **Hebrews 1:14, 1 Peter 1:4**

3:25 – What is Paul Saying?



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

What is Paul saying?

☞ Proverbs 22:8

☞ Proverbs 11:18

☞ Galatians 6:7

4:1 – Employers



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- ☞ Are to be just, fair, and do good – Jesus Standards
 - ☞ Beware of authority feeding your pride
 - ☞ Be approachable and reachable because you are not God

 - ☞ We are set apart for God not from act other!
 - ☞ We should not show favoritism
 - ☞ We Should listen fairly and make just decisions

Our Gospel Motivation



- ❧ We all have the same Master
- ❧ Are you convinced that the position you have in life has to do with His grace and mercy to you than anything else?
- ❧ All believers have equal standing before the Lord
- ❧ We recognize we are slaves too
- ❧ Our obedience and submission is a witness to our submission to a higher authority