

You work for Christ

at your job, school & home

Colossians 3:22-4:1

Introduction:

Bad theology about work...

- 1-Dividing life into sacred and secular
- 2-Work is a part of the curse
- 3-The goal of life is ease

Two reasons slaves get more attention in Colossians 3

- 1-Slavery was a difficult issue in the early church
 - 1 Timothy 1:10 *Murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching*
 - 2-Slavery was a delicate issue because of Onesimus

Why a discussion of slavery can help us at work & school

- 1-Slavery is like work today
- 2-The authority-submission relationship is similar
- 3-All Christians are slaves of Christ
 - Romans 6:18 *having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.* 2 Corinthians 5:15 *He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.*
- 4-The main issue in Col. 3:22ff is the authority-submission relationship, not slavery

22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men;

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong, which he has done, and that without partiality.

1 Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.

#1 Do What You're _____ !

22 *Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth,*

OBEY=

Matthew 8:2. *What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?*

IN ALL THINGS=

YOUR MASTERS ON EARTH=

Acts 5:29 *We must obey God rather than men.*

1st – **How?** Don't obey only when the authority is _____ or nearby

22 *not with external service, as those who merely please men,*

2nd – Why? Do obey because God is _____ and near always

22 but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

Ephesians 6:5 *Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;*

Acts 27:29 *And fearing that we might run aground somewhere on the rocks, they cast four anchors from the stern and wished for daybreak.*

Jeremiah 23:23 *Am I a God who is near, ... And not a God far off?*

#2 Work _____!

23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men

1st – How do you work hard?

1-Doing every _____ of Work

23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily,

1 Corinthians 10:31 *Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

2-Giving it _____ you've got

23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily,

3-Working for _____ and not your Earthly Authority

23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men;

John 12:42 *the Pharisees ...were not confessing Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God. Proverbs 29:25* *The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.*

Galatians 1:10 *If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.*

2nd – Why do Christians Work for Christ?

1-Positively, work now for future _____

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

Colossians in 1:12 *giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 2:18* *Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize*

Revelation 22:12 *Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.*

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

Hebrews 6:10 *For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.*

2-Negatively, to avoid _____ and its consequences

25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong, which he has done, and that without partiality.

Galatians 6:7-9 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.
8 For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.
1 Samuel 16:7 the Lord looks at the heart.
1 Timothy 6:1 Let all who are under the yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine may not be spoken against.

#3 Treat those under authority like _____ would

1 Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.

1st – How? Treat those under authority with Justice and _____

1 Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness,

Matthew 7:12 however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
James 5:4 Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord...

2nd – Why? You'll answer to the Lord for how you _____ them

1 Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, **knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.**

Conclusion:

1-Confess any lazy, eyeservice, unmotivated, less than best work.

Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 if anyone will not work, neither let him eat.

2-Commit to do your work for the Lord this week

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

3-What is that one area where God showed you to improve your work so it's heartily and best?

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

4-Thank God for your Work

Ecclesiastes 3:13 every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his labor-- it is the gift of God.

5-Offer your labor to the Lord as an act of Worship

Romans 12:1 present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship