

Work Ethics

1 Peter 2:18-20

1. The _____ of Submission (v. 18)
 - a. Unlikely _____ place
 - b. Under _____ fear
 - c. _____ duty
 - i. To the _____ & _____
 - ii. To the _____
2. The _____ of Submission (v. 19)
 - a. _____ of God
 - b. Context of _____
3. The _____ of Submission (v. 20)
 - a. Unremarkable endurance of _____
 - b. Remarkable endurance of _____

“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. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:22-24)

“Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) For he who as called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 7:21-22)

For Further Study

Work Ethics

1 Peter 2:18-20

Why might it be shocking for Peter (and others) to address slaves with this command of submission?

1. Who might have made up the largest group in the early church?
2. Aristotle said that injustice could not be done to slaves because they were property. Jewish and Stoic ethic codes only stressed moral demands on masters, implying that slaves had no moral responsibility. What was different about the Christian view of slaves? Read Galatians 3:28-29.
3. What historical and theological truths should have colored the Jewish understanding of the status & duties of slaves?

Why might it be shocking, particularly for our ears, to hear the command to submit even to cruel masters?

1. Is it easy to submit to good and fair masters?
2. “Crooked” masters... what would it have been like to be told submit to them?
Read Genesis 31:38-42. Was it easy for Jacob to work for his father-in-law/uncle?
3. What about good or lousy bosses or teachers?

How important is the phrase “mindful of God” in verse 19?

1. This phrase should color our work ethic completely.
Read Ephesians 6:5-8.
2. Do Peter and Paul agree on this matter? When we do any kind of job, how do we view the work?

Twice Peter talks about suffering as a “grace of God.” What does he mean by this?

Option 1 – Gaining God’s favor OR Option 2 – God’s grace to do it!
Why isn’t all suffering the same in the eyes of God?