

The Ministry of Submission

Colossians 3:22-4:1

Intro: This is the third message in our study of Submission. Today we will look at Scripture's guidelines for submission in the _____. Since the Bible is applicable to all areas of our life, we look at the following verses as it relates to employee, employers' relationships.

- I. Submission of the employee to the _____ Vs 22
- A. Servants/_____
1. The word here used denotes one who is bound to _____ service to another
 2. In the workplace, employees _____ themselves to render service to their employer
 3. As used in this passage the word carries more of the idea of an attendant/employee verses a _____
- B. Servants/employees are required to _____ their masters/employers in all things according to the flesh
1. *Obey*—_____ to the requests of the master/employer
 2. *According to the flesh*—as the _____ masters/employers require of the employee
 3. Their obedience is not to be _____ but all-encompassing
 - a. Christians ought to be the _____ employees/volunteers that employer/supervisor has
 - b. Their work ought to be the _____ they can offer
 - c. *Not with eye service*—service performed _____ when the employer/supervisor is watching
 - d. *Not as men pleasers*—the employee's _____ is to serve the Lord with their job and not just to make the "boss" happy
- C. Servants/employees are to serve their masters/employers-supervisors as unto the Lord
1. *Singleness of heart*
 - a. Single, simple, sincere, mental _____; the virtue of one who is free from pretense and "men-pleasing"
 - b. Sincerely desiring to please God while being a good and _____ employee
 2. *Fearing God*
 - a. *Fearing*—to treat with reverential _____ and profound _____ to honor as sacred or special
 - b. *God*—the ultimate _____
- II. Servants/employees are to _____ their attitude toward their master/employer and the job they have to perform. Vs 23-25
- A. Vs 23
1. *Whatsoever ye do*—whatever your occupation or employment
 2. *Do it heartily*—give nothing _____ than your best each day
 3. *As to the Lord, and not unto men*—even though you are working for an _____ employer, you are to remember that you are working for God, since God has given the _____ how we are to conduct ourselves on the job
- B. Vs 24
1. *Knowing*—_____
 2. *That of the Lord you shall receive the reward of the inheritance*—what I do here in this life, and the _____ with which I do it will ultimately affect the reward I will receive in eternity. To the Christian, _____ should be sacred.
 3. *For you serve the Lord Christ*—All I do in this life I do as a _____ of Jesus Christ. Therefore, I should be careful that what I do I do to be obedient to Him.

1. A stern _____ to the believer who does not walk in obedience to Vs 22-24
2. *Wrong*-failure to obey the requirements of a _____ employee as laid down in Scripture
3. *Shall receive for the wrong which he hath done*-deliberately disobeying God's Word will result in a loss of rewards when we get to Heaven. Cf 1 Corinthians 3:10-15
4. *There is no respect of persons*—God is not impressed by who we think we are, or who we think we know, only by our obedience to His commands on how we are to live our life while here on this earth.

III. Submission of the _____/supervisor to the employee/volunteer 4:1

- A. Obviously this is written to Christian employers/supervisors. Today most Christians work for companies that are not Christian in ownership, however, as a Christian _____ other workers, God has laid down guidelines to be followed as much as is within the power of the Christian supervisor to do.
 1. If you work for a non-Christian company, as an employee/volunteer, you are to focus on the _____ of 3:22-25
 2. If you work for a Christian company, as an employee/volunteer, you are to focus on the teaching of 3:22-25
 3. If you are a _____ in a company, non-Christian or Christian, you are to adhere to 4:1 while observing 3:22-25 as your _____ also to your employer
 4. If you own the business, 4:1 is directly related to your _____ in running your business when you have people working with or for you
- B. *Give unto your servants/employees that which is just and equal*
 1. *Give*—_____ for the work you receive from your employees
 2. *That which is just and equal*—
 - a. The income you pay your employees should be a _____ wage
 - b. You should pay each employee on a fair _____, depending on their
 - (1) _____ of employment with you
 - (2) Their _____ level
 - (3) Their _____ to the company
 - (4) How well they _____ their job
- C. *Knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven*
 - A. Remembering your _____ belongs to God
 - B. Remembering he has given you the responsibility to run _____ business in accordance with the Manual He has given you—the _____
 - C. Remembering He will ultimately reward you according to your _____ to His Word as a business owner and employer Cf. Vs 24

IV. Other references concerning masters and servants

- A. Servants/employees (some references are strictly written to servants/slaves, but the _____ concerning the attitude and action remains in effect for employees.)

1. Ephesians 6:5-7	3. Titus 2:9-10
2. 1 Timothy 6:1-2	4. 1 Peter 2:18-20
- B. Masters/employers
 1. Ephesians 6:5-9
 2. James 5:1-4

Conclusion: We live in a nation filled with _____ Christians concerning their place of employment, their employers, or their supervisors. We also live in a nation filled with _____ employers and supervisors. As _____ Christians, we must not allow the sinful behavior of other Believers to rub off onto us. We must _____ remember that we are representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ to the public, and act accordingly. I Corinthians 10:31 must always be the guideline by which we conduct ourselves on our jobs.