

**Col 3:22-25**

22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

**Col 4:1**

1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

In this last section of chapter 3 and moving into chapter 4 Paul addresses the relationship between the employee “the bondservant” and the employer, “the master.”

**Col 3:17**

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

Paul closes chapter 3 by addressing the employee whom he addresses as “the bondservant.”

**A bondservant carries the meaning of a slave,**

- a person who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another.

One of their main duties of a slave was to educate

- and to teach the children belonging to their masters.

In biblical slavery was based primarily on economics.

If a person fell on hard times he could sell himself into slavery.

We know from the book of Genesis that God created man in His image, and there is neither bond nor free.

**Unfortunately, there is still a form of slavery in the world today**

- because of man’s greed and need for power.
- Slavery can hold a grip on people.

**For example: If you have a mortgage or if owe any money to an institution,**

- you’re a slave to that institution.

**Solomon said,**

Prov 22:7

7 The rich rule over the poor,  
and the borrower is a slave to the lender.

**Slavery was not meant to be a permanent thing.**

**In fact, Paul encouraged the Christians in 1 Cor 7 to secure their freedom,**

- but he never encouraged them to rebel
- against the government that was in place.

**Their purpose was to win souls.**

Relationship between Philemon, Onesimus and Paul.

**Paul says in verse 22:**

Col 3:22

22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

**Paul used the same Greek word for obey as he did in verse 20**

- when he said that children are to obey their parents,
- meaning to listen with stillness or attention.

**It's the same word used by Jesus when he ordered an evil spirit**

- to depart from the man he was dwelling in.
- The spirit had no choice but to obey.

**Paul goes on to say not to obey with** eyeservice or as men-pleasers. In other words, don't work hard only when others are watching.

**He said something similar in:**

Eph 6:5-8

5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.

**Our motives should be right in all areas of life even as an employee or as an employer.**

British missionary to China - Hudson Taylor. The only motive that will enable you to remain true

- is stated in 2 Corinthians 5:14.

2 Cor 5:14

14 Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life.

**In other words, our motivation should be out of love for the Lord**

- much like the Shepherd is willing to put His life
- on the line to keep the sheep safe.

**Mr. Taylor went on to say that:**

Christ's love constraining you will keep you faithful in every situation."

So, whether you're an employee or an employer or in a position of authority or submission, our motivator should be based on the love of Christ.

**Col 3:23-24**

23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

**Ministry first has to be to the Lord.**

**That was true of the Jewish priests (Ex 28:1, 3, 4, 41, 29:1),**

- and it was true of God's servants in the early church (Acts 13:1-2)

**Paul said to the church in Rome,**

**Rom 12:11**

11 Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.

**Jesus was a carpenter and I'm sure He worked very hard.**

**The Greek word used for carpenter can be used more broadly to mean**

- "artisan a contractor or a handyman."
- So, He worked well with His hands.
- He worked with wood.

**Jesus said in Matt 11:30,**

My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

In the Greek, "My yoke is easy" actually means "my yoke fits."

**When an individual comes to Jesus, He guarantees that His yoke will fit us,**

- we are a perfect match with Him.

**Jesus said in:**

**Matt 11:28**

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

**Notice the reason slaves or employees are to obey their master.**

**Col 3:24-25**

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

1 Cor 15:58

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

**What we do here on earth for people and for the Lord will not go unnoticed.**

**Jesus said:**

Matt 16:27

27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

1 Peter 5:4

4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

This is speaking of Jesus coming with a crown of glory for you which is eternal.

Col 3:25

25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

It could be that Paul was still addressing the slave in this verse and letting him know that he will be repaid for any wrong doing, or it may be that Paul knowing that he was getting ready to address the master or the employer that he was setting things up for him or maybe he was speaking both to the slave and to the master.

Col 4:1

1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

What's the difference between the master (employer) and the Master in heaven? And earthly master is an overseer of persons, servants or slaves.

**Jesus as Master!**

Luke 5:4-5

4 When He (Jesus) had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."

One master, the one in verse 1 of Colossians 4 is the boss. We might think of a master as the supervisor in a business.

The other Master, Jesus, in the Greek denotes a Chief or a Commander.

**Jesus is the overall Commander, and He will never go out of business!**

**One master will fire you if you do something egregious,**

**the other knows the wretched person we are,**

- yet, He forgives us when we repent.

Slaves of sin:

1 Peter 4:2-3

2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles – when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

**Peter urged the believers to no longer live as they had in the past**

- because they had *already spent enough time* doing so.

**He also reminded them in verse 3 of the shameful activities of their past**

- when they lived like pagans (*the Gentiles*).

**In his letters, Peter often used the word “Gentiles”**

- when referring to non-Christians.

**Peter’s list of evil activities resembles Paul’s list in Romans 13:13.**

Rom 13:13

13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

**These activities in Romans and in 1 Peter are examples of what does not please God and they have no place in the lives of believers’.**

- *Licentiousness* (“*debauchery*” NIV) is open and excessive indulgence in sexual sins.
- *Passions* (“lusts”) are sinful human desires. Unbelievers pattern their lives after their desires, following where those desires lead, for they are unable to control them (see also 1:14).
- *Drunkenness* refers to excessive use of alcoholic beverages.

- *Revels* (also translated “orgies”) are drunken parties often filled with sexual promiscuity.
- *Lawless idolatry* is actually plural, referring to idolatrous acts.

That’s a short list.

**Prior to Cain killing his brother Abel the Lord said to him:**

Gen 4:7

7 If you do right, won’t you be accepted? But if you do not do right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

Today you’re going to serve someone, and only you can decide who that is going to be.

**Some years ago in Los Angeles a man was walking down the street** with a sign on his shoulders. The front of it read, ‘I’M A SLAVE FOR CHRIST.’ The back of it read, “WHOSE SLAVE ARE YOU?”

**Toward the end of Paul’s life he said in his letter to Timothy:**

2 Tim 4:8

8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.