

# JESUS' Design: The NEW Christian Family

## Pt.4 - Colossians 3:18-4:1

*Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes*

### **HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT PLACE FOR THOSE NEW EMPLOYEES IN YOUR COMPANY:**

*Take the prospective employees you are trying to place and put them in a room with only a table and two chairs. Leave them alone for two hours, without any instruction. At the end of that time, go back and see what they are doing:*

- *If they have taken the table apart, put them in **Engineering**.*
- *If the room has a sweaty odor, perhaps they're destined for the **Help Desk**.*
- *If they mention what a good price we got for the table and chairs...**Purchasing**.*
- *If they mention that wood furniture DOES NOT come from rainforests..**Public Relations***
- *If they don't even look up when you enter the room, assign them to **Security**.*
- *If they try to tell you it's not as bad as it looks, send them to **Marketing**.*
- *If they are sleeping, they are **Management** material.*

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

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

**ESP** - *"Siervos, obedezcan en todo a sus amos en la tierra, no para*

*ser vistos, como los que quieren agradar a los hombres, sino con sinceridad de corazón, temiendo al Señor.*

*Todo lo que hagan, háganlo de corazón, como para el Señor y no para los hombres, sabiendo que del Señor recibirán la recompensa de la herencia. Es a Cristo el Señor a quien sirven. Porque el que procede con injusticia sufrirá las consecuencias del mal que ha cometido, y eso, sin acepción de personas.*

*4 Amos, traten con justicia y equidad a sus siervos, sabiendo que ustedes también tienen un Señor en el cielo."*

- Paul's great THEOLOGY is now working itself out very PRACTICALLY.

*Your **Beliefs** ---> Your **Behavior**.*

*Your **Attitudes** ---> Your **Actions**.*

*Your **Doctrines** ---> Your **Deeds**.*

Paul has been speaking on "putting off" the **OLD MAN**, and "putting on" the **NEW MAN** in chapter 3....."How should the **NEW MAN** look in the different **RELATIONSHIPS** of your life??"

My Christianity should make a difference in **my home**, in **my marriage**, in **my office**, in **my community** - 2 Cor 5:17

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

### **I. Paul gives them EARTHLY INSTRUCTION:**

#### **Bondservants**

**"Doulos"** - Greek word for a servant, an attendant, and a slave; a 'bondman'

A "doulos" is a person under the bond of service;

A "doulos" is a person wholly devoted to the service of another;

A "doulos" is a person who has allowed their will to be

completely swallowed up by the will of another.  
obey in all things your masters according to the flesh,

**AMP** - "Servants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters,.."

"Obey" is the Greek word "**hypakouo**" - Is to respond to the knocking on the door, to listen to who it is (like a butler).

**"More than half the people seen on the streets of the great cities of the Roman world were slaves. And this was the status of the majority of 'professional' people such as teachers and doctors as well as that of menials and craftsmen."** - **Vaughan**

Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God:

**AMP** - "...not only when their eyes are on you as pleasers of men, but in simplicity of purpose [with all your heart] because of your reverence for the Lord and as a sincere expression of your devotion to Him."

**"Eyeservice"** is the Greek word "**ophthalmoudoulia**" - service performed only under the master's eye.

**"Sincerity"** is the Greek word "**haplotes**" - singleness, honesty, genuineness, not counterfeit.

Is it time for performance reviews at your work? Here are some performance review terms and their meaning . . .

**Outgoing Personality**.....Always going out of the office

**Good Communication Skills**.....Spends lots of time on phone

**Average Employee**.....Not too bright

**Exceptionally Well Qualified**.....No major mistakes..yet

**Independent Worker**.....Nobody knows what he/she does

**Quick Thinking**.....Offers plausible excuses

**Careful Thinker**.....Won't make a

*decision*

**Uses Logic on Difficult Jobs.....***Gets someone else to do it*

**Career Minded.....***Back Stabber*

**Loyal to the Company.....***Can't get a job anywhere else.*

*"Far more culpable is the attitude of modern*

*'clockwatchers' who have contracted to serve their employer and receive an agreed remuneration for their labor. But Christian slaves - or Christian employees today - have the highest of all motives for faithful and conscientious performance of duty; they are above all else servants of Christ, and will work first and foremost so as to please him."* -

**Bruce**

## **II. Paul gives them HEAVENLY INSPIRATION:**

*And whatever you do, do it **heartily, as to the Lord** and not to men,*

*"..do it heartily.." - Greek words "**ek psyche**" - with life and vitality from your very soul.*

Lazy workers and employees don't honor the Lord, don't accurately represent Him in the work place, and easily bring a reproach to the Name of Christ.

[Pro 10:26 NLT] 26 **Lazy** people irritate their employers, like vinegar to the teeth or smoke in the eyes.

[Pro 12:24 NLT] 24 Work hard and become a leader; **be lazy** and become a slave.

[Pro 13:4 NLT] 4 **Lazy** people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper.

[Pro 18:9 NLT] 9 A **lazy** person is as bad as someone who destroys things.

[Pro 19:24 NLT] 24 **Lazy** people take food in their hand but don't even lift it to their mouth.

[Pro 20:4 NLT] 4 Those too **lazy** to plow in the right season will have no food at the harvest.

[Pro 21:25 NLT] 25 Despite their desires, the **lazy** will come to ruin, for their hands refuse to work.

[Rom 12:11 NLT] 11 Never be **lazy**, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.

[1Th 5:14 NLT] 14 Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are **lazy**. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.

knowing that **from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance**;

**AMP** - "*..it is from the Lord [and not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [real] reward.*"

*"One should properly read '**the inheritance**'; the reference is clearly to the life of the age to come. This is ironic, since in earthly terms slaves could not inherit property." - Wright*

Reaching the end of a job interview, the human resources person asked a young engineer fresh out of MIT what kind of a salary he was looking for.....**"In the neighborhood of \$140,000 a year, depending on the benefits package."**.....*"Well, what would you say to a package of 5-weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every 2 years...say, a red Corvette?".....***"Wow! Are you kidding?"**.....*"Yeah, but you started it."*

**For you serve the Lord Christ:**

*"..Lord.."* is the Greek word "**Kurios**" meaning here "the Divine Master" - Christ.

*"The force of this unusual phrase (Paul nowhere else allows the titles 'Lord' and 'Christ' to stand together without the name 'Jesus' as well) could be brought out by a paraphrase: '**so work for the true Master - Christ!**' "* - Wright

If we properly understand Christianity, we will realize that all true believers and disciples of Jesus are truly his **SLAVES** who have been **BOUGHT** and **PURCHASED** by three price of His perfect blood.

He is our **MASTER** and He literally **OWNS US** as His slaves!!

**Ephesians 1:7 NLT** - *"He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins."*

**1 Cor 6:19,20 NLT** - *"Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body."*

**Romans 6:22 NLT** - *"But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life."*

**Will be repaid . . . and there is no partiality:**

**AMP** - *"And [with God] there is no partiality [no matter what a person's position may be, whether he is the slave or the master]."*

**For ancient Christian slaves and for modern Christian workers, there is no guarantee on earth of fairness of treatment from those whom they work for.** Paul assures both our ancient brethren and us that there is a final rewarding and punishment, and with this there is no partiality.

- **PERFECT EXAMPLE: JESUS!!** **Phil 2:5-7 AMP** - *"Let this same attitude and purpose and [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:] Who, although being **essentially one with God and in the form of God** [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained, But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of **a servant (slave)**, in that He became like men and was born a human being."*

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

*AMP - MASTERS, [on your part] deal with your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that also you have a Master in heaven.*

***I. Paul gives them EARTHLY INSTRUCTION:***

*"Masters.." - Greek word "kurios" meaning here a human boss, owner, employer, master.*

- *"..give your bondservants what is **just and fair**,.."*

As Christians put on the new man, they will be just and fair to those who work for them. **It is a terrible thing for a boss to cheat or mistreat his workers, but far worse for a Christian to do it.** Through the history of Christianity, there have been some who used these passages where Paul speaks to slaves and their masters to justify or even promote the practice of slavery. Others have blamed these passages for the practice of slavery. Yet one can never blame Christianity for slavery; it was a universal practice that pre-dated both Christianity and the Jewish nation. Instead, one should see that *the abolition of slavery came from Christian people and impulses, and not from any other major religion and certainly not from secularism.*

Without making an overt protest against slavery, Paul seemed to understand that if he could establish **the point that slaves were equals in the body of Christ, full human beings with both responsibilities and rights** (that they should be treated in a manner both just and fair), then in time the whole structure of slavery in the Roman Empire would crumble - and it did.

***I. Paul gives them HEAVENLY MOTIVATION:***

*"..knowing that **you also have a Master in heaven.**"*

Every Christian master would do well to remind themselves that they themselves are slaves to their Master: Christ. Paul is here reminding them to treat their servants as they would like for their Heavenly Master to treat them.

**PERFECT EXAMPLE: JESUS!!** He is our "Lord Jesus Christ", but He is just, fair, gracious and kind to us!

• **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

- As a **WIFE**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing willing submission and respect to your husband?
- As a **HUSBAND**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing sacrificial and self-giving agape love to your wife?
- As a **CHILD**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing willing obedience and honor to your parents in all things?
- As a **FATHER**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing gentleness and encouragement to your children?
- As a **SERVANT-EMPLOYEE**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing diligence, hardwork, and honesty to your employer?

As an **EMPLOYEE**, are you living in the power of the "New Man", and showing fair treatment and compensation to your employees?