

Introduction

1. Cultural Criticism

- (1) Slavery = Bible can't be trusted
- (2) Our projections = ch. 3, submission, discipline, bondservant

2. Ancient Bondservant

Being a "bondservant" in NT times was different from many of the more recent kinds of slavery:

- * Bondservants were bound to serve their master for a specific period of time.
- * People did not necessarily become slaves because of their race, nor were they completely without legal rights.
- * A person might become a slave as punishment for a crime or as a way to pay off a debt.

1 Corinthians 7:21 (ESV): Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.)

1 Corinthians 7:23 (ESV): You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men.

3. American Slavery

1 Timothy 1:9-10 (NIV) - We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious...for murderers...**slave traders**...—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine...

Philemon 15–16 (ESV): For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord

- (1) Complicated & different
- (2) Descriptive vs Prescriptive (Follow Jesus) (don't pay debt)
- (3) Closest application = workforce

4. Compartmentalized vs Comprehensive Christians

(1) Compartmentalized

1. A little different than a cultural Christian.
2. You like the idea of Jesus as savior, but not as King.

(2) Comprehensive

1. Not perfect; not knowledge, willingness
2. Just no area of your life is off-limits
3. That's what Chapter 3 has been about.
4. A series of tests, if you will: "Is He King Over..."
5. And your relationship to your job & to your boss exposes more about you, than it does about your job or boss.
6. It exposes how compartment... or compr... the Gospel is in your life.
7. Your career is a hard one because often our identity.

Take notes:
Bible &
lessons at
a FIVE
comp.

I. Three Tests of Compartmentalization (v 22)

1. Easy vs. Earnest Test

"Obey every thing" or what's easy

(1) Selective obedience

Under budget, but alcohol

1. Do you pick & choose what & how much to listen to? Maybe boss isn't very strong

2. On time; long lunches; supplies; working from home

(2) Letter of the law

Only fly first when no coach

1. Do you do the bare minimum expected of you?

2. Clock in, then coffee; spend your budget to not have it lowered

3. Do you obey "technically" what you're told, while ignoring the spirit of what was really intended

Matthew 7:14 (ESV): For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are

(3) We take the "easy" road because what favors us is always "easy"

2. Credit vs. Candor Test

Matthew 6:1 (ESV): Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

(eye slavery)
"not by way of eye-service"

(1) Credit for busyness

1. Do you act like you're busier when your boss walks in the room?
2. Do you go out of your way to let others know how busy you are or how much you've done?

(2) Credit for accomplishment

1. Take credit for others work
2. You need to always be the one who came up w/ the idea.
3. Resumé justifying all the time
3. Candor = you care more about the quality of the work than who notices you did it. Humble effort.

II Three Prayers For Comprehensiveness (v 23-24) ★ How to change

1. Lord, help me focus on a job well done,
not a day well passed.

"work heartily"

Proverbs 22:29 (ESV): Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

(1) Give yourself to the work,
more than getting thru the day

1. Quality work, eventually
yields quality recognition.

2. Lord, help me work for you,
not my boss.

"as for the Lord & not for man"

Galatians 1:10 (ESV): For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

(1) Maybe you can't honor
your boss, maybe " " "
your work environment.

But you can honor God

3. Lord, help me work for joy
more than a paycheck

"From the Lord ... you will receive your reward"

Ecclesiastes 3:22 (ESV): So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?

I left a job for more money

(1) You can't put a price on enjoyment
- affects marriage, kids, time

★ If you had trouble praying these prayers, either your job needs to change or you do. Start w/ you.

III. Three Reasons To Change (v25-4:1)

★ Why to change

1. This is not Heaven

- (1) The Bible recognizes both employers & employees will conduct themselves in less than ideal ways some times. Some times abusively & sinfully.
- (2) But someone has to live Kingdom down in this relationship showing what Kingdom of God is like. Ideally... both striving.
- (3) Do you know what's at stake for you to change & live comprehensively for the Gospel at your work?

If this isn't Heaven...

2. God loves justice & fairness

- (1) Whatever inequity & injustice you have to endure at work, to live Kingdom down, will ultimately be paid back & set right... because God loves justice & fairness.
- (2) If He loves justice & fairness, you get to be a reflection of what He loves in a broken system, by being a just & fair employee.

3. Everything you do is accountable to God

- (1) Here the persons in the seat of power are warned how they yield that power & authority.
- (2) Everyone is accountable to God, both employer & employee.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (ESV): The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Conclusion

1. Jesus was a carpenter

(1) He cared about earnest work, not easy work

2. Jesus worked for years before public ministry

(1) He cared about candor more than credit

3. Jesus told those in authority the truth

(1) Featwright was clearly more important than flattery (getting them on his side)