

C 3:16 – Peter, An Apostle of Jesus Christ

2.7.24

Sources:

Dr. John MacArthur, Dr. David Dykes, gotquestions.org

I Peter 2:18-21

¹⁸ Household slaves, submit to your masters with all reverence not only to the good and gentle ones but also to the cruel. ¹⁹ For it brings favor if, because of a consciousness of God, someone endures grief from suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is there if when you do wrong and are beaten, you endure it? But when you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings favor with God.

²¹ For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps

I. We are commanded to work well.

¹⁸ Household slaves, submit to your masters with all reverence not only to the good and gentle ones but also to the cruel.

“submit” means to “line up under”

“unreasonable” means crooked.

“How to Take Your Job and Love It” • 1 Peter 2:18-20 • April 4, 2004 • #1038 1 by David O. Dykes

- 1. Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.**
- 2. This employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.**
- 3. Slipped into the gene pool when the lifeguard wasn't watching.**
- 4. She brings a lot of joy when she leaves the room.**
- 5. Some drink from the fountain of knowledge—he only gargled.**
- 6. If brains were taxed, he'd get a rebate.**
- 7. Gates are down; lights are flashing; but the train isn't coming.**

Eph 6:5-9⁵ Slaves, obey your human^[a] masters with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as you would Christ. ⁶ Don't work only while being watched, as people-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing God's will from your heart. ⁷ Serve with a good attitude, as to the Lord and not to people, ⁸ knowing that whatever good each one does, slave or free, he will receive this back from the Lord. ⁹ And masters, treat your slaves the same way, without threatening them, because you know that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

Slave and servant are interchangeable

Slavery was common

Slavery was common among believers

Slavery may have posed some interesting challenges for the local churches

II. We please the Lord when we work well.

¹⁹ For it brings favor if, because of a consciousness of God, someone endures grief from suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is there if when you do wrong and are beaten, you endure it? But when you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings favor with God.

Because it please the Lord

Because it creates an opportunity to identify yourself as a believer (witness.)

I Thess 4:11-12¹¹ to seek to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business,^[a] and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, ¹² so that you may behave properly in the presence of outsiders and not be dependent on anyone.

I Peter 2:12¹² Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles,^[a] so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits.

Because it creates an opportunity to have positive influence for Christ

Matt 5: ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty?^[b] It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

III. Even if we work well, we still will suffer at times.

²¹ For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

Everyone suffers

Christians will especially suffer.

II Tim 3:12 ¹² In fact, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

IV. Things to remember

God knows where you are at in your job situation.

God is still in control of our worlds. Even when we have a knucklehead boss.

We must pray for wisdom on how to respond to abuse and conscience violations at work.

We can remind ourselves that ultimately, we are working for Jesus.

Col 3:23 Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people,