

Living It Out ... in the Workplace

Colossians 3:22 - 4:1

Important Points Concerning this Passage:

- Slavery was an accepted part of Roman culture and was not based on race.
- Slaves accounted for a substantial percentage of the population of the Roman empire.
- Much of the workforce in Roman society was made up of slaves.
- Even though Paul is addressing slaves and masters in this passage, he is not condoning or promoting the institution of slavery.
- In his letter to Philemon, Paul pleads with his friend to no longer treat Onesimus as a slave but as a brother in Christ. (Phil. 1:15-16)
- Paul says that slaves and masters are equal and one in Christ. (Col. 3:11, Gal. 3:28).

APPLICATION TO THE MODERN WORKPLACE

The principles of Paul's instructions to slaves and masters can be applied to modern-day _____ and _____.

Questions I Should Constantly Ask Myself:

1) _____ ?

"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks though Him to God the Father." (Col. 3:17)

"...whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Cor. 10:31)

2) _____ ?

"[Workers], in all things obey those who are your [bosses] on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord." (Col. 3:22)



"...be obedient to those who are your masters [bosses] according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as menpleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart." (Eph. 6:5-6)

3) _____ ?

"...with sincerity of heart." (Col. 3:22b)

"...in the sincerity of your heart...doing the will of God from the heart; with good will render service...." (Eph. 6:5-7)

4) _____ ?

"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord, rather than for men." (Col. 3:23)

"He who is slack in his work is brother to him who destroys." (Prov. 18:9)

"He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out." (Prov. 10:9)

"[Zaccheus]:...if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much." (Luke 19:8b)

5) _____ ?

"[do your work]...as for the Lord, rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve." (Col. 3:23b-24)

"For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality." (Col. 3:25)

"...as to Christ...as slaves of Christ...as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free." (Eph. 6:5-8)

6) _____ ?

"[Bosses], grant to your [workers] justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a [Boss] in heaven." (Col. 4:1)