

3. A Christian boss remembers he/she will give an account to God for how they handle their employees.

Conclusion

Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. How would you answer someone that said the Bible teaches slavery therefore we shouldn't trust it on other subjects?
2. Why do you think Paul didn't insist Christian masters liberate their slaves?
3. How might the ways Christ changes the heart of employees and employers apply to these careers? A Christian politician. A prisoner that comes to Christ. A Christian CEO that runs a successful company. A Christian minimum wage employee that works a summer job. A Christian policeman.
4. **Read Colossians 3:22.** Paul tells Christians to work with a sincere heart. This means having single-minded focus and purity of motives at work. Just as steering clear of behind-the-scene politics and alliances cost contestants in the *Survivor* television show, how may steering clear of office politics in your work place cost you? What is the reward for honoring Christ in this area? (See also Titus 2:9, Ephesians 6:5-7, Romans 14:8)
5. **Read Colossians 3:25.** God promises to pay back the wrongdoer for what they have done and execute perfect justice. How does knowing nobody gets away with anything change the way I handle business conflicts? How does knowing God will bring justice give me peace when someone cheats me in business? (See also 2 Corinthians 5:10, Jude 14-16, Romans 2:6-11)
6. **Read Colossians 4:1.** Paul reminds bosses to treat their employees justly and fairly. What do the following verses tell us about ways bosses can be unfair toward their employees? (See Leviticus 19:13, Matthew 7:12, Ephesians 6:8-9, James 5:4, 1 Timothy 5:18) What injustices have you experienced at work where Colossians 4:1 can help?



Colossians 3:20-21 - How Does Jesus Change My Work?

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Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. Colossians 3:22-4:1 (ESV)

1. What is a bondservant (slave)?

1. American slavery and ancient slavery were different.
2. The Bible condemns American-style slavery.

understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, 1 Timothy 1:9-10 (ESV)

1. What was Jesus' attitude toward the status of bondservant?

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 7:21 (ESV)

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

1. How did someone become a bondservant?

1. Debt
2. Life Disaster
3. Prisoner of War
4. Unwanted Children
5. Apprenticing

2. How does Jesus change an employee?

1. A Christian employee is obedient to their boss.

Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters,... Colossians 3:22 (ESV)

1. Obedience means not talking poorly about your boss behind his back.
2. Obedience means we do the job the way our boss tells us.
3. Obedience means we are on time.
4. Obedience means we do not let our task list grow cold.
5. Obedience means we go above and beyond the call of duty.

2. A Christian employee doesn't just work when the boss is looking.

Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers,... Colossians 3:22 (ESV)

1. At work, a Christian acts like they would in their boss' presence.
2. A Christian employee seeks work, they don't just complete work.
3. A Christian employee focuses on his job, not flattering his boss.

3. A Christian employee works without hidden motives.

Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Colossians 3:22 (ESV)

1. A Christian employee avoids office politics.
2. A Christian employee avoids office gossip.
3. A Christian employee doesn't bully or backstab.

4. A Christian employee works to please Jesus, his greater boss.

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, Colossians 3:23 (ESV)

5. A Christian employee also works for an eternal paycheck.

knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:24 (ESV)

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. 1 Timothy 6:18-19 (ESV)

6. A Christian employee remembers nobody gets away with anything.

For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. Colossians 3:25 (ESV)

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. Galatians 6:7 (ESV)

3. How does Jesus change a boss?

Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. Colossians 4:1 (ESV)

1. A Christian boss treats his employees morally and legally right.
2. A Christian boss treats his employees without favoritism.