

How to Serve God as Someone Else's Slave – Part 2

Colossians 3:22-25

NKJ	²² Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.
BGT	²² Οἱ δοῦλοι, ὑπακούετε κατὰ πάντα τοῖς κατὰ σάρκα κυρίοις, μὴ ἐν ὀφθαλμοδουλίᾳ ὡς ἀνθρωπάρεσκοι, ἀλλ' ἐν ἀπλότῃ καρδίᾳ φοβούμενοι τὸν κύριον. ²³ ὃ ἐὰν ποιῆτε, ἐκ ψυχῆς ἐργάζεσθε ὡς τῷ κυρίῳ καὶ οὐκ ἀνθρώποις, ²⁴ εἰδότες ὅτι ἀπὸ κυρίου ἀπολήμψεσθε τὴν ἀνταπόδοσιν τῆς κληρονομίας. τῷ κυρίῳ Χριστῷ δουλεύετε. ²⁵ ὁ γὰρ ἀδικῶν κομίσεται ὃ ἠδίκησεν, καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν προσωποληψία.

REVIEW

If then you were raised with Christ,

- **Be Seeking the Above Things (Col 3:1)**
- **Be Thinking the Above Things (Col 3:2)**
- **Put to Death Sinful Motivations (Col 3:5-7)**
- **Put Off Sinful Actions (Col 3:8-11)**
- **Clothe Yourself with Spiritual Clothing (Col 3:12-14)**
- **Let the Peace of Christ Rule Between You and Others (Col 3:15)**
- **Let the Word of Christ Dwell in You Richly (Col 3:16-17)**
- **As Wives, Be Subjecting Yourself to Your Husbands (Col 3:18)**
- **As Husbands, Be Loving Your Wives, and Do Not Be Embittered Towards Them (Col 3:19)**
- **As Children, Be Obeying Your Parents in All Things (Col 3:20)**
- **As Fathers, Do Not Be Agitating Your Children (Col 3:21)**
- **As Slaves, Be Obeying Your Masters in All Things (Col 3:22)**

The Group Addressed

What is a slave? – Someone required to serve another; (FRI) one who serves in obedience to another's will

Who is a slave today?

- Those who are under the complete control of others (extended: those that work for others, under partial control)
- Not everyone can or will be self-sufficient – Not everyone will be “the boss” – We are all under authority
- Our economic status is not the most eternal issue (1 Cor 7:21-23)
★★ **God is more concerned about my conduct than my position** ★★
★★ **My goal is not to upgrade my situation (though it is certainly encouraged if possible). My goal is to please God in whatever situation I find myself.** ★★
- Those of any status are equal before God (1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:28; Eph 6:8; Col 3:11)
★★ **My value to God is not based upon my situation in life, but upon my standing in Christ.** ★★
★★ **My reward from God is not based upon my situation in life, but upon my response to God in whatever situation He chooses to place me.** ★★

The Command

What does it mean?

- “To hear under” – to respond to – to be listening and obeying (same as children in Col 3:20)
- Present tense – “continually be hearing under”

To what extent?

- In every area (same assignment/wording as children to parents)
★★ **Am I listening to what my boss says, and am I doing what I am told to do?** ★★

The Direction of the Command

Whom are slaves commanded to respond to? Lit. “to the lords according to flesh”

- God acknowledges temporary, earthly realms and relationships.
★★ **Am I living the temporary in light of eternity?** ★★
★★ **Do I fight against what is just part of life now?** ★★

The Description of the Command

Negatively – How are slaves NOT to “obey” their fleshly lords?

- Prohibited Action: You are not to be obeying in an “eye-slaving” way.
★★ **Do I work only when people are watching?** ★★
- Prohibited Motivation: You are not to be obeying to please men. ★★ **Do I work to please people?** ★★

Positively – How ARE slaves to “obey” their fleshly lords?

- Commanded Action: Obeying with singleness of heart (possibly “untwisted” or “not braided”)
★★ **Am I fully committed to doing what God wants as a “slave”?** ★★
- Commanded Motivation: Obeying because you are fearing the Lord.
★★ **Is my motivation to obey God in everything that I do?** ★★

22 – WHO Is Commanded? / WHAT Is Commanded?

23 – HOW We Are to Slave? *“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men”*

1. **By including every task – Complete Obedience**
2. **By invoking heartly effort – Core Obedience (vigorous)**
Eph 6:6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,
3. **By giving ongoing effort – Continual Obedience (“be working”)**
4. **By serving the right Master – Divine Obedience – “I am doing this task for the Lord”**

24-25 – WHY Work This Way?

“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.”

1. **Because you will be rewarded based upon what we do.**

1 Cor 3:8 Not he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

1 Cor 3:14 If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward.

Col 2:18a Let no one cheat you of your reward...

2 John 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but *that* we may receive a full reward.

2. **Because God is your ultimate Rewarder.**

Matt 16:24-27 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

Rom 14:10b For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

1 Cor 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

2 Tim 4:1 I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing...

1 Pet 1:17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear;

1 Pet 4:5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

Rev 22:12 And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

3. **Because God's reward is the best reward.**

Acts 20:32 So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Eph 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Eph 1:18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Eph 5:5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Heb 9:15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Heb 10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

Heb 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

1 Pet 1:3-4 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to ... an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

4. **Because dishonest work will receive just payment.**

Rom 2:11 For there is no partiality with God.

Eph 6:9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

James 2:1 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality.

Heb 2:2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,

5. **Because you ultimately slave for the Lord Christ. – You may have “a” boss, but God is “the” boss.**

Slave: Fearing the Lord – For the Lord working – From the Lord receiving – For the Lord slaving
