

11-03-13

Scripture:

Title: Slaves and Masters

Past chapter we have been talking about the new man

We are to put off the old man which is dead

We are to put on the new man

The new man let's Jesus' peace rule in his heart

The new man lets Jesus' word dwell in his heart

The new man seeks to honor God w/ his words and deeds

Verses 5-17 deal with our personal life

Independent of others, our thoughts, our speech...

Verses 18 – 21

Deals w/ relationships at home

Verses 22 – 4:1

Deals w/ relationships at work

May have said this already...

I went to college, for teaching, in Durango, CO

Southwest corner of the state

Not far from Mesa Verde

Very large Indian population in the area and at the school

Mostly Utes and Navajos

I remember hearing when I was there

One of the Indians complaints about the "white man's" religion

...it is a one day thing

Go to church on Sunday, act nice do good...

Then you've got 6 days not affected

Their religion, Indian religion, was their life, their whole life

How sad is that...

Actually when we truly come to know Jesus as our Savior

When we repent and trust Him...

Our lives should be changed

It is not just on Sundays that things are different

Every part of our lives

Every day of our lives

Should be different

*God should affect every part, every day of our lives
This is the new life that is being talked about here*

We are to put on the new self
Affecting every part of our lives
Internally and externally
Should affect our relationships
Starting at home...

It is to affect our families – talked about that last week
Wives submit
Husbands love
Children obey
Parents don't exasperate

How is it a wife can submit to her husband?
What if he isn't loving – is she off the hook?
How can a husband love his wife, sacrificially, every day?
What if she doesn't submit to him – is he off the hook?
How can children obey their parents?
How can parents not provoke their children?

This is only possible through the new life in Jesus
A life that has been transformed
A life that is under God's control, not ours
A life that has surrendered it's will
Come to the end of itself
Knowing it can do nothing on its own

When we confess our sin, seek God's forgiveness
Ask Him to come and live in our lives
The Holy Spirit takes up residence
Ready to teach us
Our old self is dead
We have new life
This new life should be seen in our actions
Our actions in our families
Wives submitting to your husbands
Husbands loving your wives, sacrificially

Children obeying your parents – it's right
Parents not frustrating, provoking your kids

And now today – it should affect our relationships at work

Philemon

Guys have been reading Philemon

Philemon had a slave named Onesimus

Always pictured Onesimus as a young man

Perhaps full of himself, caused problems for master

Didn't want to be a slave

So he ran away

In that day a slave could be killed for that

Onesimus ran away and ran into Paul

Perhaps just when he thought he was free

Here is an old friend of his master, Paul of all people to run into

Maybe things hadn't been as great as he thought...

And Paul shared the truth with him, probably had before...

Onesimus repented, trusted Jesus as his Savior

His life was changed, transformed

Now he has to face his running away

He has to go back to his master

Paul writes Philemon to help in this relationship

To help Philemon understand what has happened

The change that has happened

They have a new relationship

No longer master and run-away slave

Brothers in Jesus the Messiah

Slaves

Colossians 3:22

At time of Paul's writing – slavery was a part of life

Slaves part of regular household

Wives, children, slaves – animate articles of property

Slave is slave of master
Slave belongs to master
Considered unable to take part in rational discourse
Can't deliberate – think, reason

This was the view of slaves in that day
Less than people, lacking in reasoning

Is Paul supporting the institution of slavery?
For the Roman world to abolish slavery at this time – result in
disaster – up to 1/3 of population believed to be slaves
Transformation from inside out...

Since Paul is addressing slaves – he considers them rational beings
Capable of developing a relationship w/ their masters and
the Lord Jesus
Radical for that day...
May have been many slaves in this church...

Bible doesn't advocate slavery
Fact of life at this time
Slavery would eventually be abolished
B/c of changed hearts – changed from inside out
If masters and slaves treat each other as they should...
Good for everyone

Slaves are not told to rebel
Rather told to behave in a godly manner
Most important in any relationship

Is there application for us today?
Much will apply to employer – employee
Some employees feel like slaves 😊
Some employers wouldn't mind the respect of a
master 😊

Frequently used in scripture to compare our relationship w/ the
Lord – He is our master and we are His slaves
We belong to Him, we are to serve Him
This section frequently mentions Jesus as the Lord (as w/ book)

Longer discussion on slaves than any of the others
Lordship of Messiah frequently mentioned
And, they will receive an inheritance
Identity of slave is changed here
Newly defined in their relationship with Jesus

Regardless of position we are all called to submit to Jesus as our Lord – back in **Colossians 3:17**

According to USA Today, firms are spending billions of dollars to fire up workers--with little results. The article states: There has been exhaustive academic research trying to find out what motivates workers, and it has turned up almost no evidence that motivational spending makes any difference. Poll-taker Gallup analyzed its massive database and determined in March [2001] that 55 percent of employees have no enthusiasm for their work--Gallup uses the term "not engaged"--based on several criteria, including loyalty and the desire to improve job performance. One in five are so uninterested or negative about their jobs that they poison the workplace to the point that companies might be better off if they called in sick. Further into the article, Spencer Johnson, author of Who Moved My Cheese? states he "believes research may one day show that the only long-lasting motivation will come from employees who bring it to work in the form of God, spirituality, or something else that causes them to 'rise to a higher purpose.' "

Sincerity of heart

- ...not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord

External service – eye service

Compound word – eye + servitude/slavery

Service performed only to make an impression in the owner's presence

Please men – people pleasers

Compound word again – people + pleasing

Acts done just to gain favor

Children are to act in a way pleasing to the Lord
Slaves' actions should be to please God, not people

Sincerity of heart – single mindedness

Single purpose – w/ Jesus as the object of service

- ...*fearing the Lord*

B/c of your reverent fear of the Lord

Slave owners often instilled fear in their slaves

Shifts the focus to the Lord

Different kind of fear, reverential fear

Fearing the Lord is the right attitude in any situation

The right motive is to hold God's will in high regard

Serving the Lord

Colossians 3:23-24

When the famed Bible teacher Harry Ironside was a boy he worked for a Christian cobbler named Dan Mackay. Harry's task was to take a piece of cowhide that was soaked in water and to pound it with a hammer until it was hard and dry. Then he found out that other cobblers took a short cut and would attach the leather to the shoes before they were dry. "They come back all the quicker this way, my boy!" one cobbler said. Harry brought up the idea of Mr. Mackay. Mr. Mackay replied: "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Harry, I do not cobble shoes just for the four bits and six bits (50c or 75c) that I get from my customers. I am doing this for the glory of God. I expect to see every shoe I have ever repaired in a big pile at the judgment seat of Christ, and I do not want the Lord to say to me in that day, 'Dan, this was a poor job. You did not do your best here.' I want Him to be able to say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"

No matter who your employer is, Christ should be the one you are working for and serving. Who do you work for?

Heartily – whole heartedly

Obey w/ single mindedness

From the soul

The motivation behind the effort

Put your whole heart into it

Put yourself into it

Serve your master as you would the Lord Himself

Serve your employer...

Believers are to serve the Lord wholeheartedly

We are to serve the Lord as slaves serve their masters

Earthly masters may not always give slaves what they deserve

Neither may employers

But the Lord will

He will see that eternal compensation is what it should be

Redefinition of masters

The master is the Lord

Believers are the slaves

And, heirs of an inheritance

Think about this for a minute

A slave receiving an inheritance

Slaves didn't have/own property

How could this be?

Legally all they have is the masters

Inheritance is for legitimate heirs

No longer slaves but God's children...

Galatians 4:7

Status is changed

Changed from slave to heir, heirs in God's household

No longer mere pieces of property

Heirs, heirs of God, part of God's household

Remember back to **1:12**

Share w/ the inheritance of the saints in light

Slave and free – both share in God's inheritance

- *It is the Lord Christ whom you serve*

The true object of our service

The service of the slave

The service of a free man

The service of the master...

Our service today

Is to the Lord

He is the One we serve

He is the One who will ultimately reward us or punish us

Whether you are underpaid or overpaid now

The Lord will even it out in the end

You are serving Him

We are to serve whole heartedly w/ full commitment

Serve the Lord...

Justice

Colossians 3:25

God's justice

We should serve the Lord b/c He is just

Unlike many earthly masters

If we don't serve the Lord there will be punishment

Deserved punishment – He is just

Partiality – to receive the face

Not showing favoritism

God disciplines w/o partiality

The slave was still responsible to faithfully serve his master

There will be reward for good service

There will be chastening for bad service

Philemon 18

Paul acknowledges that the now Christian slave Onesimus

Was responsible to repay Philemon

Believers can never presume on their Christianity to
justify disobedience

Just b/c Onesimus was now a believer
Still responsible for past obligations

Masters

Colossians 4:1

Duties of masters

Provide justice and fairness

Fairness – equity

Equality

The masters also have a Master in heaven

Learning some things about the mining days up here

Sounds like the “masters” needed to read this verse

Leslie recently read a book

Miners made \$2.50 - \$3.00/day

Actually very similar wages in mines of Colorado

Owners/managers were making 85,000/year

Justice and fairness?

There is a master in heaven – and He does see

Verse before – no partiality

Masters will be judged for mistreating slaves

As Slaves will be judged for failing to serve their masters

Colossians 3:11

...there is no distinction ..., slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

Masters should be just and fair

B/c they too have a master in heaven...

They should treat their slaves as brothers in Messiah

Jesus is the real master, the real Head of the house (if you will...)

This makes the masters into slaves

They need to serve their Master

Jesus is Lord of all

Earthly masters must submit to Him

Jesus is the final and ultimate judge of all

Need to remember this

Conclusion:

Putting this altogether

Wives submit
Husbands love, sacrificially
Children obey
Parents – don't provoke
Slaves serve faithfully
Masters follow your Master

When we come to the Lord Jesus

We are made new
He transforms us, changes us
This should affect every area of our lives
This should affect every day of our lives

It should affect our relationships

Between husbands and wives
Between parents and children
Between slaves and masters
Employers and employees
Friends, co-workers, everything...

All that we do should be done for and to the Lord

Read this a few weeks back...

The story is told of the foreman on a building site who asks one of the builders what he is doing. The builder replies, "I'm breaking rocks."

Another worker is asked the same question, and he answers, "I'm earning for my family."

The question is posed to a third worker. With a glint in his eye, he responds, "I'm building a cathedral."

We are serving the King

We are doing the Kings work

Regardless of what it looks like to us...

Benediction: Colossians 3:17

17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Sermon outline

11-03-13

Colossians 3:22 – 4:1

P _____

S _____

Sincerity of h _____

Serving the L _____

J _____

M _____