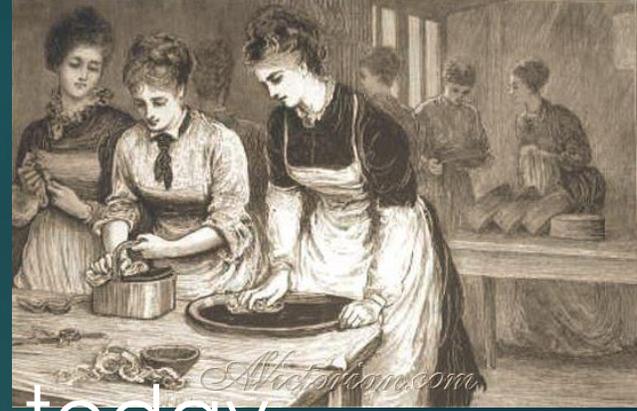




Our Relationships part 3—Servants and Masters

COLOSSIANS 3:22-4:1

Employee and Employer



- ▶ We have no such thing as a **bondservant** today. This word can simply be translated as **slaves**. (bondservant is a slave with a fixed term)
- ▶ In a broad sense, this word refers to **subjection** and **service**. (i.e. a servant or an employee)
- ▶ Although we have no slavery today in Canada, we can still learn much from these **principles**.

1. Servants Obey Their Master

- ▶ (v.22) “in everything” of course does not mean absolutely **everything**, since we must seek **FIRST** the kingdom of God. (Matt. 6:33; Rom. 12:18)
- ▶ (v.23) Nevertheless, as employees we are **responsible** to do our **duty** and be **diligent** at our job. (Eccl. 9:10; Eph. 6:5-8)
- ▶ “Eye service” or “people-pleasers” are still just as present as 2000 years ago. (ill: shipyard)



The Bible on Work



- ▶ (Gen. 1:31; 2:15) God **works** and wants us to work.
- ▶ (Prov. 12:11) God will **provide** us with our daily bread through our “land.” It is good to **work hard** in what we do. (opposite: 24:30-34)
- ▶ (Eccl. 9:9-10) Work is a **privilege** that not all share.
- ▶ (2 Thess. 3:10-12) And **idleness** is not good for anyone. (note: idleness is not rest)

To Be Treated Unjustly



- ▶ Interestingly Paul takes time to address **unfairness** here. (v.25)
- ▶ (2 Cor. 5:10) We need to remind ourselves that God is the **judge** (Rom. 12:17-21) and we can trust Him.
- ▶ (1 Peter 2:18-21) Jesus has set an **example** for us.
- ▶ (Luke 6:35) And our **reward** will be great in Christ.

2. Masters—Justly and Fairly (4:1)

- ▶ It is not easy at times to treat others **justly** & **fairly**, even in a peer to peer situation. It is even harder to do so when the authority and power is in our hands. (Eph. 6:5) **Threats** are so much easier.
- ▶ The key is **humility**—knowing all that we have belongs to God, not just physical “stuff” but also our **position** & authority, which are all God’s gifts.
- ▶ Moreover, we must follow our Master in heaven, who shows us love and grace with authority.



Acknowledge God at Work

- ▶ Note: both servants and masters must **acknowledge God** in our daily employment.
- ▶ *“You are serving the Lord Christ” (3:24)*
- ▶ *“Knowing that you also have a Master in heaven” (4:1)*
- ▶ How have you acknowledged God at your workplace? How has God been **glorified**? Is there something that needs to **change**?

