



New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

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PASTORAL PONDERING

GOSPEL APPLICATION UNDER VARIOUS MASTERS

"Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith." (Titus 2:9-10)

The Gospel permeates through all relationships including those where we are under the authority of others. It even permeates to relationships where one might have little or no say, such as someone bound in slavery to a master. Some of whom will deal righteously and some unrighteous. Regardless, it doesn't change the Christian servant's response. According to the Gospel they are to be all the more quick to submit and obey, to be faithful to what is asked, to be well-pleasing (yes ma'am, yes sir) and not looking for ways to do less than what is right and honorable.

These are Gospel principles for relationships with people who have authority over us. Though we rarely find ourselves in slavery or slavery-like relationships, we are nonetheless bound in written contracts to our employers and bosses. Maybe right now in your workplace with all these Covid-19 restrictions, you're being asked to do things that make your job more time consuming or difficult (working from home, limited hours in the office, conference calls, working odd hours, etc.). Sometimes those in authority over you are quite rude, ungodly, arrogant, and harsh. As a Christian how are you to respond in light of the Gospel that has saved you out from the very same way of living? Consider these commands given to those who are bondservants to a master found in our text.

1. Obedient—eager and ready to do what is asked. The Christian is never too lofty to take orders from another.
2. Faithful—honest and steadfast, with mind set on doing what is asked efficiently and with excellence
3. Submit in everything---submitting to all instruction should be the norm, not the exception.
4. Be well pleasing...That means having a good attitude about whatever is asked or required of you without argument
5. Not pilfering (stealing in small amounts that go unnoticed), but working all tasks in good faith and honesty
 - a. Not punching out of work a few minutes early each day and counting it as a full day.
 - b. Not abusing any privilege, and having respect for the company's tools, machines, equipment, even more than you would your own.

As Christians we should know the relationship of authority and submission the best. We are those under the authority of our Heavenly Master. Therefore, knowing the gospel should produce in the Christian godly submission and service to earthly authorities in such a way that provides opportunity for Gospel proclamation.

How was a real slave to act according to this text? Should he or she put all their energy into escape and rebellion, saying how wrong it is that they have been bound in slavery or that

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the demands of service were unfair? Even when those things are true, the Gospel says wherever you are, bear fruit in keeping with the Gospel as a testimony to the grace of God in Christ Jesus. Now you may not be enslaved to a job but maybe you feel like there are no other job options, so in a sense you do feel enslaved. It's not unfaithful to pray for other job opportunities, but in the meantime consider how you can submit to the position that your boss has in honor to God. For in Christ the reality is that regardless of who is in authority over you, you are indeed free. From an eternal perspective you are free, and it's the unbelieving master who is in slavery. Wouldn't you want to testify of your freedom in Christ and the free gift of the grace of God that is offered to them too? The grace of God in the Gospel allows you to submit (as honoring to the Lord) to ungodly masters or authoritative figures with these godly attributes, and in so doing will paint a beautiful display and glory of the Gospel. You obey because you are obeying Christ; you are faithful and honest because you are working for the Lord not man.

Do you separate your workplace as non-ministry while thinking of church events as ministry? Do you see your job as an unspiritual thing you have to do in order to pay the bills?? No matter what your job may be, stay at home mom, dentist, hair stylist, business owner, farmer, accountant, deli server, pilot, you name it: it's a place of ministry. No matter if your co-workers or boss or fellow investors are believers or not, it's a huge part of the ministry field God has given to you to honor your Heavenly Master and live out the Gospel exalting the name of Jesus. How many hours a week do you work? For most of us that's one of the largest, most time-consuming parts of our daily schedule. What a huge ministry!!! When you see your job as a platform to minister the Gospel, it makes any and every job exciting! Many work under difficult bosses and have experience with insensitive leaders and managers, but know you have been given opportunity to serve in a way that imitates Christ Jesus and bears eternal spiritual fruit in you and in the lives of those you interact with.

I have found in past, jobs that the loudest Gospel proclamation came through submission, obedience, being well-pleasing, honest, and trustworthy. Therein God provided me opportunities to tell why I lived the way I did. It was in those moments (when found obeying my earthly master) that I had the opportunity to tell of my Heavenly Master who also is my Heavenly Father by the grace of God in Jesus Christ who took me from death to life, from orphan to son, from slavery to freedom.

Striving in the proclamation of the Gospel along with you,

Pastor Paul

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ALTHOUGH WE ARE MEETING TOGETHER IN PERSON ONCE MORE, THERE WILL BE NO FOOD OR COFFEE SERVICE YET.

May Memory Verse:

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” esv

May Fellowship Tip:

Be sure to be reaching out to your New Life family often! Get creative in ways to bear one another's burdens and encouraging one another daily. Consider phone calls, video chats, writing letters, sending cards, etc.

> **Sunday Services.** This is our first Sunday back in person, how exciting! Praise the Lord! We recognize there will be many (including at risk groups) that will still want to stay at home for a while longer. If you find yourself a little concerned still, please know you are loved and supported while still staying home. We will be taking some precautions at the building by spacing chairs and having extra rooms opened up with the live stream service playing on the TV's. There will be plenty of chairs and space that you can distance as you feel comfortable. We also will hold off on the meals after the service and plan to resume with our big celebration service. Our big family celebration (second half of Easter Service) will be in mid-June. Times and dates to be announced soon.

> A few **Bible Studies** are getting back together again! Thursday Morning Men's Study @ 6:30am has begun and also Thursday Morning Women's Study will begin June 4th. If you haven't been a part of a study and you are looking to join one or book study, make sure to pay attention to announcements in the Newsletter, our Website, New Life Connect, and our App as previous studies resume and new studies begin.

> **Help Pastor Bennett** get his master's degree! Part of Pastor Bennett's degree requirements is working towards a number of supervised counseling hours. So, if you or anyone you know could benefit from some FREE biblical counseling, reach out to Bennett soon. You will be helped and equipped by God's Word, and Bennett will be that much closer to graduation!

> The Peterson family has been hosting a **Tuesday Evening Prayer** meeting through ZOOM. If you haven't yet, you are encouraged to join in! This prayer meeting has been so good and refreshing to pray together with our brothers and sisters in Christ! You will leave cherishing the grace of God towards us and enjoy the fellowship of the saints. Just look for the Connect Post early in the week by the Peterson's and follow the link to join the meeting Tuesday Evening.

Please join us, it is a sweet time with the Lord!



Today's Passage:
Pastor Paul's message is from the
New Testament book,
TITUS 3:1-8

Sermon Notes: