

Who's the Boss?

Media Reference Number GSX659 - January 9, 2019

Pastor Steve Hurlbert

Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Colossians 3:22-24 - 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^[a] you serve the Lord Christ.

Cross reference –

Ephesians 6:5-8 - ⁵ Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

The Bondservant:

- Strong's Definitions (Strong's Definitions Legend)
†δοῦλος *doulos*, **doo'-los**; from G1210; a slave (literal or figurative, involuntary or voluntary; frequently, therefore in a qualified sense of subjection or subserviency):—bond(-man), servant.
- The term *doulos* is a term which can mean slave or servant, depending on the context. The word suggests a strongly subservient position, either voluntary or by choice.
- A very **common term** in New Testament times.
- Jesus uses the concept/word in a few of **His parables**.
- Historians say that up to **1/3 of the entire Roman empire** were slaves.

Paul calls himself a bondservant

Romans 1:1 - Paul, a servant (*doulos*) of Christ Jesus . . . called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

Also in **Titus 1:1**

Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness,

Others call themselves bondservants

James 1:1 (the brother of Jesus and leader of the Jerusalem church) - James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.

2 Peter 1:1 - Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

Jude 1:1 (the brother of Jesus and James) - Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:

Paul calls others bondservants

Epaphras – Founder of church in Colossae – probably with Paul in Rome

Colossians 4:12

Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

And even Christ!

Philippians 2:7

but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Jesus operated as a servant - the ultimate example of a servant - when he washed the disciple's feet – John 13

Mark 9:35 - ³⁵ And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant (diakonos) of all."

What would be true of a bondservant?

- They served their masters
- They would be anticipating what their master wanted or needed – Example: The Cellar
- They did whatever was necessary
- A good bondservant obeyed their masters
- They did whatever they did to please the master

Whatever you do / In Everything

Colossians 3:17 - And **whatever you do** in word or deed, **do all** in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

1 Corinthians 10:31 - ³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or **whatever you do**, do **all** to the glory of God.

What does WHATEVER mean?

What does ALL mean? Or EVERYTHING mean?

Spiritual / Secular divide

- Of course, that means when I serve as an usher at church – do that to the glory of God.
- But when I play basketball with the guys (that secular thing) – is that to the glory of God?

In Word

Are my words “to the glory of God?” or “in the name of the Lord”?

Negative Side:

- What about **my gossip**?
James 4:11 - ¹¹ Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.
- What about **my complaining**?
Philippians 2:14 - Do all things without ^[a]complaining and disputing
- What about that **little white lie** I told? - “Tell them I’m not here.”
Leviticus 19:11 - You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another.
- What about my **words that tear down**? Vs build up?
Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary ^[a]edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.
- What about **my anger** expressed in my words?
James 1:26 - If anyone ^[a]among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion *is* useless.

Psalms 141:3 - Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

- Would we **say one thing** and **do another**?
Luke 6:46 - But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?

Positive Side:

- What about my **giving thanks** to the Lord?
Psalm 92:1-2 - *It is good to give thanks to the Lord, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; ²To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, And Your faithfulness every night,*
- What about my **kind words** to others?
Proverbs 15:1 - A **soft answer** turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.
Galatians 4:6 - *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*
Proverbs 16:24 - Pleasant words *are like* a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.
- What about my **being positive** and complimentary?
Proverbs 15:23 - A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word *spoken* ^[a]in due season, how good *it is!*
Proverbs 12:25 - Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad.

In Deed

Are my deeds "to the glory of God?" or "in the name of the Lord"?

Negative Side:

- What about my **cheating on my taxes**?
Romans 13:1: Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.
Romans 13: 5-7 - Therefore *you* must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. ⁷Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes *are due*, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.
- What about when **I'm lazy at work** and spend company time catching up on all my Facebook and Instagram posts from the weekend?
Proverbs 18:9 - He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.

- What about that **website I go to**? The one nobody else knows about? GOD does!!!
Matthew 5:28 - But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
Job 31:1 - I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I ^[a]look upon a young woman?
- Can you really **watch that program** or movie?
Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

Positive Side:

- **Help those in need** in Christ's name
Matthew 25:44-45 - "Then they also will answer ^[d]Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.'
- Be **thoughtful** – **Consider others** as more important than yourself.
Philippians 2:3-4 - *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
- **Be kind** one to another
Ephesians 4:32 - And **be kind** to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Eye-service, as men pleasers vs Sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord

Colossians 3:22-24 - 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 ^[a] you serve the Lord Christ.

Ephesians 6:5-8 - ⁵ Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

God sees everything!

Job 34:21 - For His eyes are on the ways of man and he sees all his steps.

Psalms 139:1-3, 7ff - O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Where can I go from your presence . . .

Why do we do the right things?

- Because our boss is watching?
- Or because it's the right thing to do?

It's **like your kids**. You give them instructions. Do you want them to obey just when you are watching? Do you want them to obey when you're not around?

The contrast / What's the opposite of "eye-service, as men-pleasers"

But with sincerity of heart, fearing God.

With fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart,

- "Eye-service, as men-pleasers" is the wrong reason or motivation for what we do.
- Sincerity of heart is the right reason or motivation for what we do.
- The fear of the Lord is the right reason or motivation for what we do!

James 4:17 - so whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

What then should be our motivation?

Our purpose in doing everything - not only what we do – but why we do it is right in these verses:

- As to the Lord
- You serve the Lord Christ
- As to Christ
- As to the Lord

Colossians 3:22-24 - 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^[a] you serve the Lord Christ.

Ephesians 6:5-7 - ⁵ Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

This is who we are doing everything for! The Lord!

I would argue that **He deserves our best!** How can we give Him less?

No we would **do it with excellence** - because that would please Him.

Challenge

This is a New Year! As we begin 2019. . .

are there things in your life that you'd have to say are not "to the glory of God"?

What are you gonna do?