

SERVING GOD IN THE WORKPLACE

All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered. ²Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for them because they are brothers. Instead, they are to serve them even better, because those who benefit from their service are believers, and dear to them. These are the things you are to teach and urge on them. 1 Timothy 6:1-2 (New International Version)

- **UNDERSTANDING SLAVERY**

Slavery in the first-century Greco-Roman world was economically-based, not racially-based.

. . . For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. Galatians 3:26-29 (English Standard Version)

- **PRINCIPLES FOR THE WORKPLACE**

- Whether your boss is good, bad or ugly, you give them full honor and your best service.

Four Reasons To Respect and Obey Your Boss

- It will give God a good reputation. (1 Timothy 6:1)

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

[See Mark 10:43-45; 1 Corinthians 9:19; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:16-17]

Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, ¹⁰and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive. Titus 2:9-10 (NIV)

- It will protect you.

A king's wrath is a messenger of death, but a wise man will appease it. Proverbs 16:14 (NIV) [See also Proverbs 20:2-3]

- It's the best way to succeed at work.

(See Daniel's example in Daniel 1)

He who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who looks after his master will be honored. Proverbs 27:18 (NIV)

- It's what God says to do.

Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. ²⁰But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 1 Peter 2:18-20 (NIV)

- If your boss is a believer, never take advantage of the relationship. (1 Timothy 6:2)

- **WHAT TO DO WHEN WORK ISN'T GOING WELL**

Two Key Questions:

- Am I being asked to do anything unethical?
 - If yes: Obey God, not man and accept the consequences. (Peter in Acts 4; Daniel 1 and 6; 2 Timothy 3:12)
 - If no: Obey the boss.
- Can I quit? (1 Corinthians 7:17)
 - If yes: Move on.
 - If no: Make the most of it.