

Colossians 3:22-25 **servants of the Lord**

1. Growing up in Him • (Review)

- a. Marriage is a mystery concerning Christ and the church (the body of Christ) (Eph 5:32)
- b. Parents need to raise their children in the Lord. (Eph 6:4, Gal 4:1-2)
- c. Children should honor their parents (even as adults) (1 Tim 5:4)
- d. Family is the first ministry. (Husbands, wives, children) (1 Tim 5:8)

2. Servants, obey... • Colossians 3:22-24

- a. Not necessarily "slave". (ie employee)
- b. "*Servant* differs from *slave*, as the servant's subjection to a master is voluntary, the slave's is not..." - Websters 1828 Dictionary
- c. If you can be free of earthly masters, be free. Regardless, you serve the Lord. Serve your earthly masters well. (1 Cor 7:21-24, 1 Tim 6:1-2).
- d. "...singleness of heart, fearing God." Unbelievers especially will look upon what you do. (Eph 5:3)
- e. Why serve earthly masters well? To show what the grace of God teaches us. (Titus 2:9-12)
- f. "Ye serve the Lord Christ." We are free and at liberty in Christ, yet we should serve Him. (Gal 5:1, 2 Cor 5:17)
- g. The servant of the Lord must be... so that... (2 Tim 2:24-26)
- h. Your reward is of the Lord. Your service is judged. (Col 2:18, 2 Cor 5:10-11, 1 Cor 3:13-16)

3. He that doeth wrong • Colossians 3:25

- a. What kind of service are you doing?
- b. Denying the Lord service results in loss. (works that will be burned away) (2 Tim 2:11-13)
- c. Serving your flesh reaps corruption, serving the Spirit reaps life. (Gal 6:7)
- d. This does not mean you lose salvation. "He himself shall be saved." This judgement is of your service. Your sin was already forgiven.
- e. Good service = good reward. (Eph 6:5-8)

4. Masters, give... • Colossians 4:1

- a. Master (ie employer)
- b. "A man who rules, governs or directs either men or business." - Websters 1828 Dictionary
- c. Just and equal. The labourer is worthy of his reward. (1 Tim 5:18)
- d. The believing master ought to treat his servants well. He or she, as all others, is accountable to the Lord.

5. Relationships under grace (Recap)

- a. Each relationship described (husbands, wives, children, parents, servants, masters, the church) operates directly based on a personal relationship with the Lord under grace.

- i. Wives → willing submission to husbands as Christ submitted to the Father, even as His equal
- ii. Husbands → love wives as Christ gave up His life for the church while we were yet enemies
- iii. Children → need to grow in understanding of the Lord, as there are those in the church that need to grow in understanding of the Lord
- iv. Parents → instruct children so that they may grow, without discouraging them, as those with understanding in the body ought to help others to grow
- v. Servants → Ultimately serve the Lord, as every member of the body serves our Head and Master
- vi. Masters → Ultimately serve the Lord, treat servants as your master treats you.
- b. Day to day living requires you to understand Christ and His relationship to the church.
(Acknowledgement of the mystery - Col 2:2)