

# Employee Responsibilities

The Eternal Value of Work—part 4

November 17, 2019

What duties does an employee owe to his boss, manager, supervisor, and the company? That's the topic for this week's study. Next week we'll look at the duties a work leader has to those who work for him or her.

## **DAY 1: Be responsive to authority.**

### **Submit, be subject.**

*Titus 2:9 Teach slaves **to be subject** to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, <sup>10</sup> and 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.*

1. To be subject means to willingly yield yourself to the authority of another. (Children are to do this with their parents and teachers, we are to do this with policemen, with those in spiritual authority over us, and with those with authority over us at work).

2. Be “subject” or “submit.” The word means to make yourself *amenable* as best as you can. It is your “job” to find a way to work with your boss. (You don't have to agree with the boss).

3. What *actions* does Paul tell the slaves to do? (Titus 2:9-10)

4. What *attitudes* are important to demonstrate? (Titus 2:9-10)

*1 Peter 2:18 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.*

5. The opposite of being subject is seen in two ways:

a. “Hairesis / hairetikos: The Greek word means to stubbornly pursue a divergent goal.

b. Schisma: The Greek word is the word we use for “schism.” It means to create division rather than work for harmony.

6. What strikes you from today's devotional?

## **DAY 2: What motivations are there to submit to the boss?**

1. To not submit (to not make yourself amenable) to the boss may mean loss of paycheck and loss of job. This is important even at the basest, self-serving of motivations.

2. However, Paul tells us there are also much higher motivations that can be at work through our work attitudes and actions toward the boss!

*Titus 2:9 Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, <sup>10</sup> and 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.*

3. Paul tells us the highest motivation for submission: the reputation of the One we love!

4. Re-write Titus 2:10 in your own words, below.

5. How would the actions given by Paul result in the gospel message being *clarified*?

6. If as employees we had these kinds of actions and attitudes toward the boss, what is it that makes the teaching about God our Savior “*attractive*?”

7. What connections can you make between your work actions and attitudes toward the boss (and toward work) and the gospel message becoming attractive to others?

8. What actions or attitudes need to be changed in how you work? How about your attitude toward the boss?

### Day 3: What if I have a harsh or unjust boss?

1. There are bosses, owners, and managers who are unjust.

2. What is my responsibility to follow them? How am I to think about this?

*1 Peter 2:18 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.*

*<sup>19</sup> For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. <sup>20</sup> But 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.*

*<sup>21</sup> To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."*

*<sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.*

3. To whom is this passage addressed? (Titus 2:18)

4. What differences are there in their work situation and your work situation?

5. What difficult situations did slaves sometimes face? (Titus 2:18-20)

6. How are slaves to respond in these difficult situations? (Titus 2:18-20)

7. How did Christ respond when He suffered at the hands of sinners? (Titus 2:21-23)

8. The hinge point in this passage is Titus 2:21.

*Titus 2:21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps...*

a. To what are you called?

b. How did Christ do for your benefit?

c. How does His example motivate you?

## DAY 4: Respect the boss

*1 Timothy 6:1 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.*

*2 Those 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. One of the astounding, freeing truths about the bible is that it is not first a book to solve your problems. It is first a book to lead you to find God through your problems. It is in finding God that we find both the treasure of knowing and loving God and wisdom to deal with our problems!

2. In this case Paul is talking directly to *slaves!* His instructions to “consider their masters worthy of full respect” is stunning! How does this strike you? Is this how you think?

3. Additionally stunning is the reason Paul gives to “consider their masters worthy of full respect!” Paul gives two reasons. What are they?

4. Imagine! Even slaves are in the hand of God to advance God’s larger story!

5. How do you respond to this amazing reasoning for “respecting the boss?”

6. Several Greek words are in play, here:

- a. “Full respect” – To hold in high regard, or worthy of high esteem
- b. “Ti-me” – the Greek word for honor. It means to value or to hold in dignity.

7. You may have a boss you don’t naturally respect. How do you respect someone you don’t respect?

8. Paul says “*consider*” their master (your boss) worthy of respect. What does that mean? (a) We respect the authority *position* that is over us. (b) We learn to respect the *person* in spite of their weaknesses.

9. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

## DAY 5: “Obey” the boss

*Ephesians 6:5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.*

*<sup>6</sup> Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.*

*<sup>7</sup> Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men,*

*<sup>8</sup> because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.*

1. Here is another stunning verse about following authority, whether you are a slave or just a regular employee!

2. “Obey”

a. Means to follow the directives and guidance of the boss.

b. The Greek word is “Hupakouo,” which means to bear under (subordinate). To heed or conform

c. There are different kinds of disobedience: rebellion, chattering, scorning, contempt, etc.

d. Spirit of obedience: respect, a healthy fear, sincerity of heart.

3. From Ephesians 6:5-8, list the directives Paul gives employees that you can better apply in your work situation.

4. What strikes you from this week’s devotions about our duties to employers?