



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Worker & Boss

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Tom McCullough/PO Box 503, Granville, Ohio 43023/tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org /www.capitolcom.org/ohio

The setting is a Roman prison (60-62 A.D.) and Paul is addressing the established Christian (mostly Gentile) church in Ephesus where he was a pastor for several years. In this letter, Paul counters the false teachings that had started to plague the church and additionally provides encouragement and instruction in sound doctrine. While the first three chapters deal with doctrine, the church and the spiritual blessings in Christ, in the last three chapters Paul describes responsibilities of the Christian life. In the sixth chapter of Ephesians, Paul continues to share God's standards for authority and submission in the Church. (Ephesians 6:5-9) NASB

Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. (6:5-8)

Workers obey your boss. Paul continues the command of being subject to one another, Christian are called to be obedient (subject) to their master (boss). Not just to the good bosses but to all. *“Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.” (1Pe 2: 18-19)*

Workers are to perform their jobs to the best of their abilities at all times, not just when the boss is looking (eyeservice) or to gain favor (men-pleasers) with the boss but rather as a daily offering to and for Christ. The exception to obedience is a command or task that would be in direct disobedience to God's Word. (Ac 4:19-20) No Christian has a secular job, but is a missionary where God places them in a watching and needy world.

Similar to the relationship between the child and parent (6:3), the fulfilling of this command results in a blessings from God. *“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.” (Col 3:23-24).*

What is the responsibility of the boss (master)?

And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him. (6:9)

Masters are to provide honor and respect. Paul directs bosses (masters) to respect and honor their workers (slaves) and not to threaten or treat them poorly. Christian bosses are similarly to be missionaries where God places them, making their daily walks an offering to and for Christ. Christian workers and Christian bosses are brothers and sisters in Christ, the Master. Bosses are to understand that their 'position' on earth does not matter to God; He is not a respecter of persons; all are equal in the eyes of God.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Gal 3:28)

For Your Consideration:

- Are you obedient to your boss out of fear and/or the need for a job? Or as a daily offering to and for Christ?
- Do you see yourself as a missionary, placed by God, in the role and environment that allows the world to see Him through you?
- Bosses, do you honor and respect those who report to you?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS (SESSION OR HEARING DAYS) AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44

STATE STAFF AND LOBBYISTS: WEDNESDAYS AT 12:10PM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44