



**Poema**

**“Relational Christianity Part 4”**

**Ephesians 6:5-9**

Paul concludes his instruction on submission by addressing how to submit within the context of slaves and masters. By extension, this offers good insight and understanding to all employer-employee relationships. In many work situations, there is seemingly constant struggle between employers and employees. Conflicts exist between workers and management with each side accusing the other of selfishness and unreasonableness.

The Christian employer and the Christian employee must see things differently if the name of Christ is to be properly represented. Christians cannot take off their “Christ hat” on Monday – Saturday and when in business and commerce act no differently than the world.

The command to be salt and light does not simply apply to Sundays or on short-term mission trips. There is a purpose for you at your work. Who you are in Christ does not change. It does not matter whether you own a business and employ people or you are hired to do a job as the employee. Ephesians 6:5-9 informs believers how they can best represent Christ in the workplace. The answer is found in the practical effects of the Spirit-filled life.

➤ ***Christian employees must submit to their employers for the sake of Christ and His testimony.***

***“Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is bondservant or free.” (Ephesians 6:5-8)***

When we apply Paul’s teaching to the present context of the employee, we can see in these verses six things a Christian employee can have that will bring glory to Christ:

**1) The right behavior “Bondservants, obey...”**

The first obligation of a Christian is to please the Lord and to be a faithful testimony to Him. One way to do this, according to Paul, is to offer obedience willingly to those under whom you work, regardless of who they are or the character they exhibit.

**2) The right perspective “...your earthly masters...”**

A Christian worker’s submission to the employer is done under the employer’s authority. While the authority-submission relationship is important and is to be respected, it is only temporal. It does not apply to moral and spiritual concerns at any time or under any circumstance.

**3) *The right attitude “...with fear and trembling...”***

The idea is not cowering fright; it is one of honor and respect that makes a person eager to please. If one cannot honor and respect the employer for the employer’s own sake, then one respects him for the Lord’s sake, as an individual under whom the believer is to submit.

**4) *The right commitment “...with a sincere heart...”***

The idea here is to be an employee with class, dignity, authenticity, and selfless. One is to do the work he or she is assigned, and to do it well for the Lord’s sake. It should be completed without complaining, bragging, criticizing the work of others, or in any way being disruptive. (cf. **1 Thessalonians 4:10-12**)

**5) *The right motive “...as you would Christ...”***

When Christians are submissive to the Holy Spirit, their accomplishments are **as to Christ**. Christ is both the origin and the goal of their obedience. (cf. **1 Corinthians 10:31**)

**6) *The right diligence “...not by the way of eye-service, as people pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether bondservant or free.”***

The faithful, classy, dignified, authentic Christian employee does not simply do enough to get by and look good to the boss. Nor does this individual only work hard when the manager or supervisor is watching. This employee does not need to be checked up on; this person’s work is always done to the best of his or her ability. It does not matter whether anyone else is around or not, because Christ is always present, and it is for Him that the work is being done.

➤ ***Christian employers must submit to their employees for the sake of Christ and His testimony.***

***“Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours in heaven, and that there is no partiality with Him.” (Ephesians 6:9)***

What Paul has been instructing Christian employees, holds true for the Christian employer as well: do the will of God and care for people under you just as you would Christ. A faithful Christian employer is humble, dignified, shows class to all employees, and does not play favorites or involve oneself in manipulative behavior. Instead this employer remains fair and just in all dealings with his or her people.

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