

“There is a common, worldly kind of Christianity in this day, which many have, and think they have enough — a cheap Christianity which offends nobody, and requires no sacrifice --- which costs nothing, and is worth nothing.” (J.C. Ryle)

Throughout the New Testament, slaves are to be...

1. **Trusting** their God
2. **Submitting** with Joy
3. **Faithful** in Service
4. **Integrity** of Behavior
5. **Adorning** the Gospel

- The duties of slaves toward their masters:
 - Ephesians 6.5-8
 - Col 3.22-25
 - 1 Pet 2.18-20
 - 1 Tim 6.1-2
- And for **believers**, all are united as one by the Spirit, united in Christ:
 - 1 Cor 12:13
 - Col 3:11
 - Gal 3:28

Titus 2.9

• Slaves

- The slave [Greek: *doulos*] had no rights whatsoever.
- The New Testament does not focus on reforming and restructuring human systems of society, which are NEVER the root cause of human problems. >> The issue is always the heart.

• Be submissive

- To the **masters** [Greek: *despot*] one with absolute, supreme authority.

• In everything

- The slave must comply with the wishes of his master and this “in every respect” -- from morning until evening and in every category of work the slave must be submissive to his master.

Though we don't live in a culture with a legal institution of slavery like the New Testament world had, perhaps a fitting application of these principles speaks to those in the workplace as under authority; that is, this can be applied to those at work under the authority of the employer.

What is God's plan for you? How do you do this? After the main command to 'be submissive', now we have 4 supporting phrases: [positive, 2 negative, then 1 more positive.]

1. to bring happiness to the master (well-pleasing)
2. to speak well of the master (*not* argumentative)
3. to work honestly for the master (*not* pilfering)
4. to honor Christ before the master (showing all good faithfulness)

I. BRING HAPPINESS TO YOUR MASTER! (9a)

II. SPEAK WELL OF YOUR MASTER! (9b)**III. WORK HONESTLY FOR YOUR MASTER (10a)****IV. HONOR CHRIST FAITHFULLY BEFORE YOUR MASTER! (10b)**

"Faithfulness in a servant lies in the ready, punctual, and thorough execution of his master's orders; keeping his secrets and counsels, dispatching his affairs, and managing with frugality, and to as much just advantage for his master as he is able; looking well to his trusts, and preventing, as far as he can, all spoil, or loss, or damage." (Matthew Henry)

Verse 10 - Why all this? “to adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect”

How does a “slave” or a worker in a harsh environment do this??

1. Recognize **reality** of **sin**, injustice, hardship and unfair treatment.
2. Cast your **hope in God** who is gracious & merciful to sinners.
3. Seek to **follow** God whatever the cost, whatever the demand.
4. Love the Church where all saints are **unified** in Christ by the Spirit.
5. Long for **heaven** where all blood bought slaves worship the Lamb together.

JESUS I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN

Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow Thee;
 Destitute, despised, forsaken, Thou, from hence, my all shalt be.
 Perish every fond ambition, All I've sought, and hoped, and known;
 Yet how rich is my condition, God and Christ are still my own!

Man may trouble and distress me, 'Twill but drive me to Thy breast;
 Life with trials hard may press me, Christ will bring me sweeter rest.
 O 'tis not in grief to harm me, While Thy love is left to me;
 O 'twere not in joy to charm me, Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Let the world despise and leave me, They have left my Savior, too;
 Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not, like man, untrue;
 And, while Thou shalt smile upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,
 Foes may hate, and friends disown me; Show Thy face, and all is bright.

Haste then on from grace to glory, Armed by faith and winged by prayer;
 God's eternal day's before thee, God's own hand shall guide thee there.
 Soon shall close thy earthly mission, Swift shall pass thy pilgrim days,
 Hope shall change to glad fruition, Faith to sight, and prayer to praise