

SERMON OUTLINE Colossians 3:18-4:1

Christian Homes - Masters and Servants

BONDSERVANTS (3:22-25)

Bondservants

Obey

Your Earthly Masters

In Everything

With Sincerity of Heart

1. *Negatively, not obeying by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, or merely for men*
2. *Positively, working in the fear of the Lord, working for the Lord/serving the Lord Christ, trusting that you will be rewarded by the Lord, and as one ultimately accountable to the Lord*

MASTERS (4:1)

BONDSERVANTS AND MASTERS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Freedom Is the Heart of the Gospel

Paul's Instructions Effectively End Slavery

Our Response Matters More than Our Circumstances

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this passage is that as servants of Christ, our True Master, we can serve any earthly master with sincerity of heart. Once again, that's our main takeaway as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. If someone were to ask you to define and defend expository preaching, what would you say?
3. How have you thought about slavery in connection to the Bible?
4. How would you feel if you were Onesimus who was charged to carry this letter and Philemon as a runaway slave?
5. Can you see why it's important to recognize Paul's use of *doulos* and *kurios* in this passage?
6. What do you think about the fact that Paul regulates, rather than prohibits, slavery in this passage?
7. How easy is it for you to obey your earthly authorities with sincerity of heart? What is your primary motivation when you do?
8. Which negative aspect of a sincere heart do you most struggle with? Which positive aspect do you need to grow in?
9. Do you think it would be easier to honor God as a Christian master or slave? As one in authority or under it?
10. Do you focus more on your circumstances or your response?
11. Are there any circumstances in which you don't think you could honor God (too bad, too long, too hard, etc.)?
12. Are there any kinds of slavery that Christians must seek to escape or rescue people from?
13. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

14. Listen to Pastor Dave's sermons on expository preaching ([part 1](#); [part 2](#)).
15. Read Philemon along with Colossians 3:22-4:1.
16. Spend some time prayerfully asking God to help you avoid responding to your earthly authority by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, or merely for men.
17. Pick one positive aspect of obeying your earthly authority with sincerity of heart to focus on this week.
18. Find one way to use whatever earthly authority you have in a more God-honoring way this week.
19. Share with someone one thing that would be different if you focused on your response instead of your circumstances.
20. Share the gospel with someone, that they might be rescued from spiritual slavery to sin.
21. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

22. Adoration. Praise God that He is the perfect Master and Lord of all. Praise God that He is perfectly just and fair. Praise God that He is the greatest reward. Praise God that He is impartial. Praise God that He is holy, holy, holy.
23. Confession. Confess any ways you've misused or misresponded to your earthly authority. Confess disobedience to legitimate authority, eye-service, and people pleasing. Confess insincerity of heart and fear of men. Confess injustice and unfairness.
24. Thanksgiving. Thank God for being your Master. Thank God for setting you free from sin's mastery in Christ. Thank God for whatever good authority there is in your life. Thank God for the inheritance that is yours in Christ.
25. Supplication. Ask God to rescue those trapped in spiritual bondage and earthly slavery and to use you to do so. Ask God to fill Grace Church with men and women who use whatever God-given authority we possess for the glory of God and the good of those under our authority. Ask God to help us respond to our God-given authority as God commands.