

Serve As For The Lord

Col. 3:16-4:1

Introduction

- How many of us have received poor service?
- Does anyone care about quality of their work?
- Or, we hear it said, "As long as I do my job well, it does not matter what type of character I have."
- Neither attitude is acceptable in the sight of God

2

Introduction

- Christians must be concerned with how we act in all our relationships
- The way we serve reflects our attitude toward the Lord
- Three levels of awareness in our behavior
 - Self directed
 - Others directed
 - God directed
- Goal to be directed by the Lord Jesus

3

Serve As For The Lord

1. Do all in the name of the Lord
2. Service to God must be from a willing heart fearing the Lord
3. Serve fearing Him who will judge our behavior

4

Do All In The Name of The Lord

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Col 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

5

Do All In The Name of The Lord

Col 3:18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

Col 3:20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

Col 3:21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

6

Do All In The Name of The Lord

- Popular practice today is many preface anything they say or do with phrase, "In the name of the Lord Jesus..."
- They seek to receive the Lord's approval for whatever they desire to do
- The Truth – Whatever we do or say should be done in regard and recognition of the Lord's authority
- His authority covers all aspects of our lives – both worship and all relationships ⁷

Jesus Given All Authority

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." ⁸

The Lord's Authority – Basis For Our Daily Behavior

- God's authority basis for all moral behavior
- To act against His authority is to sin
- Although sin may hurt others, it is ultimately and primarily offensive to God, universal moral authority
- Whether society approves of sin or we can sin without many or any people knowing about it, God knows and will hold us accountable for our actions against Him ⁹

The Lord's Authority – Basis For Our Daily Behavior

Gen 39:7 It came about after these events that his master's wife looked with desire at Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me."

Gen 39:8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, with me *here*, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, and he has put all that he owns in my charge.

10

The Lord's Authority – Basis For Our Daily Behavior

Gen 39:9 "There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?"

11

The Lord's Authority – Basis For Our Daily Behavior

Psa 51:4 Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.

12

Warning Against Compartmentalization

- When we divide our lives up into separate “compartments”, we try to decrease the scope of the Lord’s authority
- What I do at home is my business
- What I do in my personal life is my business
- The Lord’s authority only has to do with the plan of salvation and worship

13

Service To God Must Be From A Willing Heart Fearing The Lord

Col 3:22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who *merely* please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

Col 3:23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,

14

Service To God Must Be From A Willing Heart Fearing The Lord

- Man tries to serve God without giving his whole heart, thinking, emotions and will
- Result – give the Lord some half-hearted external service
- God has always required willing heartfelt service
- The way we serve the Lord should determine how we act in all areas of life

15

Service To God Must Be From A Willing Heart Fearing The Lord

- Often, our primary interest and efforts are in our work and other areas in life with little interest in serving the Lord
- To serve God grudgingly or only for approval of others is not serving Him at all

16

Beware of Serving God Without Yielding Our Whole Heart

Mat 15:4 "For God said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,' and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.'

Mat 15:5 "But you say, 'Whoever says to *his* father or mother, 'Whatever I have that would help you has been given *to God*,'"

Mat 15:6 he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And *by this* you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition. 17

Beware of Serving God Without Yielding Our Whole Heart

Mat 15:7 "You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you:

Mat 15:8 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.

Mat 15:9 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'"

18

God Has Always Required Heartfelt Obedience

Deu 6:4 "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!

Deu 6:5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

19

God Has Always Required Heartfelt Obedience

Deu 6:6 "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.

Deu 6:7 "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

20

Grudging Service Never Acceptable

2Co 9:7 Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

21

Serving Only For The Approval of Men Never Acceptable

Mat 6:1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

Mat 6:2 "So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

22

Serving Only For The Approval of Men Never Acceptable

Mat 6:3 "But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

Mat 6:4 so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

23

Serve Fearing Him Who Will Judge Our Behavior

Col 3:22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who *merely* please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

Col 3:23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,
Col 3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

24

We Serve Fearing Him Who Will Judge Our Behavior

Col 3:25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

Col 4:1 Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.

25

One Day We Will Be Judged

Act 17:30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent,

Act 17:31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

26

Our Daily Behavior Has Eternal Consequences

Rev 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

27

Our Duty – Fear God And Keep his Commandments

Ecc 12:13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is*: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to* every person.

Ecc 12:14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

28

Serve As For The Lord

1. Do all in the name of the Lord
2. Service to God must be from a willing heart fearing the Lord
3. Serve fearing Him who will judge our behavior

29