

CHRISTIAN LABOR RELATIONS

Reference: **Colossians 3:22-24**

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The words bondservant and master as used in this context can also describe an employer and his employee, so in this short section of Scripture Paul discusses employment and employer-employee relations.

In sending these instructions to the congregation at Colossi, Paul wanted to regulate labor relations so that ancient servant-master situations didn't deteriorate into the sort of ancient inhumane treatment that had been so common.

Paul addresses three sets of human relations in the larger text:

- _____-_____ relations (**verses eighteen and nineteen**)
- _____-_____ relations (**verses twenty and twenty-one**)
- _____-_____ or _____-_____ relations (**verses twenty-two through twenty-four**)

In this last set Paul mentions three principles that relate to labor relations:

ONE is that employees are to be _____.

verse twenty-two "*Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh*"

Reference: **Philippians 2:4; I Peter 2:18; I Timothy 6:1-2 and Colossians 4:1** (see screen)

TWO is that employees are to be _____.

verse twenty-two, "*...not with eye service as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, pleasing God*"

THREE is that employees are to be _____-_____.

verse twenty-three, "*And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.*"

Practical steps to doing what we do with our whole heart:

- show _____
- continue to _____ as a person
- don't make _____
- if possible, do more than is _____ of us
- do what we are assigned to do without being _____
- learn to _____ what we do on the job

The Old Testament character Amaziah was someone that didn't have a whole-hearted attitude.

Reference: **II Chronicles 25:2** (see screen)

God describes what He requires from us in **Ecclesiastes 9:10** (see screen)

verse twenty-four "*knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*"

Reference: **Ephesians 6:8** (see screen)