

Titus 2:9-10
Sound teaching for ... (group # 5) slaves/employees

Introduction:

- 1) **What is Titus to do?—2:9a** ⁹ *Urge* (parakale,w from 2:6) *bondslaves* [dou/loj]
 - a) The bondslaves were stereotyped as being: lazy, argumentative, apt to steal

- 2) **What 5 things does Titus urge bondslaves to do?—2:9-10a**
 - a) Actively submit to the boss (based on infinitives)
 - i) # 1—*to be submitting themselves* [middle voice] *to their own masters* [despo,thj], [some add “*in everything*”]
 - (1) The temptation (Moody)
 - (a) The wrong response to freedom in Christ made some resentful toward their unbelieving masters.
 - (b) Others were tempted to take advantage of believing masters.
 - (c) This could be part of the upsetting of households in 1:11.
 - (2) They are responsible for voluntarily arranging themselves under their God-given authority, placing their God-given resources at his disposal for the glory of God and the good of their master.
 - (3) The only exception would be if the master would command them to sin.
 - (a) The Christian can suggest alternatives to achieve the same purpose apart from lying, cheating, or whatever the sinful instruction involves. (Adams)
 - (4) Submission to our earthly authorities begins with our submission to our heavenly authority. (Kitchen)
 - ii) # 2—*to be well pleasing* [euva,resto] *in everything* [some place “*in everything*” with the phrase above],
 - (1) Having the right attitude of trying to bring satisfaction to their master (and also God) instead of acting in a sullen or obstinate manner.
 - (2) The tendency to rebel, to talk back and do as one pleases is great among workers. (Adams)
 - b) Avoid three common faults of bondslaves/employees (based on participles)
 - i) Negatively
 - (1) # 3—DON'T ARGUE *not contradicting* [avntile,gw],
 - (a) If the slave talks back/mouths off to his master, he violates this teaching.
 - (i) Compare the example of the false teachers in 1:9.
 - (b) Do not dispute your master's commands or deliberately resist his will. There is no place for griping or complaining.
 - (2) # 4—DON'T STEAL ¹⁰ *not keeping back for oneself* [middle voice] [nosfi,zomai],
 - (a) Do not divert (misappropriate, embezzle, petty theft) to yourself what is intended for your master.

- (b) Consider the example found in Acts 5:2-3.
- (c) Much of the cost of manufacturing, servicing, etc., must go to the replacement of those things that are pilfered by employees. (Adams)
- ii) Positively
 - (1) # 5—DO BENEFIT *but demonstrating* [middle voice] [evndei,knumi] *all good faithfulness* (reliability) (NKJV reads “fidelity”)
 - (a) Do exhibit that genuine faith in Christ is considerate and beneficial to those around the believer, especially the master.
- 3) Why are bondslaves to be this way?—2:10b so that ...**
 - a) To glorify God—*they may adorn* [kosme,w] *the doctrine of* (concerning) *God* (the Father) *our Savior in everything*.
 - i) This is the positive restatement of the negative motive in 2:5
 - ii) Their motive for obedience to these truths is that by arranging their lives in this manner they show off the full beauty of the doctrine pertaining to God.
 - iii) The right response to the difficulty of the bondslave’s position is a powerful recommendation for the gospel, proving to the master the power of the Word.
 - (1) When the boss/supervisor sees in Christian employees all the things they would wish to see, they will more readily listen to their witness for Christ. (Adams)
 - b) Homer Kent reminds us: As a beautiful picture may be enhanced with an appropriate frame, so we make Christian teaching attractive if we exhibit its power and truth in our lives. It is the glory of the gospel which can so transform lives that even those of the lowest social order can adorn God’s truth.
- 4) Things we need to remember:**
 - a) How does my commitment to pleasing my earthly authority bring satisfaction to my heavenly Master?
 - b) How would my co-workers evaluate my attitude at work based on this standard?