

“Who’s the Boss?”

Ephesians 6:5-9

Dr. Cliff McManis

November 25, 2007

⁵Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. ⁹Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that He who is their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with Him” (ESV)

A. Responsibilities of Employees

1. Obey your boss

“obey your earthly masters” (6:5)

“obey” = *hupakouow* = ‘to hear under; carry out orders’ cf. 6:1

2. Obey with reverence

“with fear and trembling” (6:5)

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God” (Romans 13:1, KJV)

3. Obey wholeheartedly

“with a sincere heart” (6:5)

“in singleness of heart” (Colossians 3:22, KJV)

“do all things without grumbling” (Philippians 2:14)

4. Obey as an act of worship

“as you would Christ...as servants of Christ doing the will of God...as to the Lord...knowing that He is...Master” (6:5, 6, 7, 8, 9)

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men” (Colossians 3:23)

5. Obey with goodwill

"rendering service with a good will" (6:7)

6. Obey knowing your reward

"knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back [komisetai] from the Lord" (6:8)

"knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward" (Colossians 3:24)

"For we [believers] must all appear before the judgment seat [bema] of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed [komiseitai] for his deeds in the body, whether good or worthless [phaolon; NOT poneron, 'evil'] (2 Corinthians 5:10)

"To him who overcomes I will give the right to sit with Me on My throne" (Revelation 3:21)

B. Responsibilities of Employers

1. Treat your employees with dignity

"Masters, do the same to them" (6:8)

2. Do not intimidate your employees

"stop your threatening" (6:9)

3. Treat your employees with justice

"knowing that He who is their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with Him" (6:9)

"Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness" (Colossians 4:1)