

COLOSSIANS

ABOVE ALL



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Paul writes to the church at Colossae to show that Jesus Christ is greater than Caesar and what they already have in Christ Jesus is sufficient and supreme. Jesus truly is above all other rulers. His kingdom reign is above all governments. His work is above all other accomplishments. And all who are in Christ can live a life above all that the world offers. And that greater life can be experienced and expressed in everything we do, everywhere, every day.

PART 9: HOW WE WORK

Read the text: Colossians 3:22—4:1

Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Many people in the first-century church either served as bond-servants or as their masters. And amazingly, all of these men and women are now part of one body with Jesus as its head. Paul now turns in his letter to address these men and women and help them know how the Gospel shapes their work in the broken world of first-century slavery. Our union with Jesus shapes everything, including how we work. As Paul has already said,

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use them in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. What does working as “eye-service” or as a “people-pleaser” look like for you in your work? How do you do this? Be specific.
2. How would working like God is watching change how you work? How do you think God thinks about you and your work?
3. Working as to the Lord also means working within our limits. What are your current limits? (Your limits connect to your time, season of life, energy levels, relationship commitments, etc) Where do you consistently push past your limits? What, or who, are you sacrificing when exceeding limits?
4. Why is it hard for you to honor your limits in work? What do you think may be underneath working beyond your limits?
5. Are there any next steps you think the Spirit is leading you to take with your work? What are those next steps? How can this community help you?