

# “AS TO THE LORD”

Col 3:18-25

## INTRODUCTION

- A. Christians', earthly relationships must be characterized by attitude of submission, fulfilling responsibilities to others “as to Lord.”
  - 1. This demonstrates to world, and especially to whom we are in subjection, that we are humble, obedient people.
  - 2. The phrase “as to the Lord,” indicates submission to one another is viewed by God as manner we present ourselves before Him.
- B. Look at relationships, relevant to most, requiring submissive attitude.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. SERVANTS SUBJECT TO MASTERS

- A. Context of Col 3:23 addresses relationship of servants to masters
  - 1. Although slavery is repugnant to us, Lord never specifically forbade it, although it would seem to be that the principle of Matt 7:12 would preclude a Christian actually owning a slave. He simply gave instructions as to how it was to be done.
  - 2. This included rules for masters, as well as slaves Col 4:1.
  - 3. Admonition to servants (slaves) applies to nearly everyone.
  - 4. In a sense employees are servants of employers (masters)
- B. Should serve sincerely, from heart, doing God's will. Eph 6:5-8
- C. Failure to honor master invites blasphemy against God 1Tim 6:1-2
  - 1. Christian masters especially honored since service rendered benefits a beloved brother. Titus 2:9-10
  - 2. “The doctrine of God our Savior” must be “adorned” “in all things,” including the relationship under consideration.
- D. Principles apply even under difficult circumstances 1Pet 2:18-20
- E. Whatever your work is, do it well. Eccl 9:10

### II. CITIZENS SUBJECT TO GOVERNORS

- A. “For the Lord's sake,” submit to “every ordinance of man” - kings, governors, all who are in positions of civil authority 1Pet 2:13-17
  - 1. We owe them honor, no matter if dishonorable
  - 2. This means whoever is President, Governor, Mayor, etc we must respect for the authority they possess.
  - 3. Even David, who was anointed king over Israel, refused to take life Saul because he honored his position 1Sam 24:1-15
- B. Must be reminded of this because we often forget Titus 3:1
- C. Resisting government, including law enforcement, is resisting God Rom 13:1-6

### III. WIVES SUBJECT TO HUSBANDS

- A. The wife who won't submit to her husband as head over her rejects Christ's authority. Eph 5:22-24
- B. Her behavior toward her husband reflects her submission to Christ and can influence him for sake of the gospel. 1Pet 3:1-6

- C. A wife's behavior toward her husband should be characterized as obedient. Titus 2:3-5 This is learned behavior.
- D. Women must not be offended by talk of submission because man, is subject to Christ, and Christ to God. Husbands owe wives love and honor Col 3:19; 1Peter 3:7; 1Cor 11:3, 8-9
- E. The purpose stated as to why women must submit to men is God's order in creation. Gen 2:7; 18-23; Gen 3:16

### IV. CHILDREN SUBJECT TO PARENTS

- A. Obedience to parents commanded Col 3:20; Eph 6:1-3
  - 1. Not only “obey” but also “honor” parents.
  - 2. Obedience can be grudging but honor requires sincerity
- B. Rules set by godly parents should be followed wherever one may go, no matter how far from the parents Prov 1:7-9; 6:20-23
- C. Jesus, our example subjected Himself to his parents. Lk 2:51-52
- D. Abusive, scornful, disobedient children bring reproach, are in darkness, & deserve severe punishment Prov 20:20; 30:17
  - 1. In O.T. failure to honor parents worthy of death Ex 21:15, 17
  - 2. The death penalty is still a valid punishment, but it is the civil government's authority to carry it out Rom 13:1-7;
  - 3. Christians must turn away from such 2Tim 3:1-5

### V. YOUTH SUBJECT TO ELDERS

- A. Whether Peter has reference to older or overseers of church, is no dilemma since we are to submit to both 1Pet 5:5a
- B. Submission to the aged. Age is worthy of respect, no matter what modern society dictates Prov 16:31; 20:29
  - 1. Elderly deserve our sincere and humble respect Lev 19:32
  - 2. Older Christians treated as parents to be treated 1Tim 5:1-2
- C. Submission to overseers of church. In the church, an elder is an overseer or bishop (1Pet 5:1-2; Acts 20:17, 28; Tit 1:5-7)
  - 1. Overseers are highly esteemed for their work 1Thess 5:12-13
  - 2. Their hard work demands double honor 1Tim 5:17
  - 3. Overseers to be followed and submitted to Heb 13:7,17

### VI. CHRISTIANS SUBJECT TO ONE ANOTHER

- A. None exempt from command to submit 1Pet 5:5b-c
- B. Godly fear demands this attitude Eph 5:15-21
- C. When work to be done, each one should be glad to submit to others to accomplish it 1Cor 16:15-18
- D. It was Christ who set the example of humility Phil 2:3-5

## CONCLUSION

- A. Do the words “humility,” “obedience,” and “submission” accurately describe you, or are you better characterized by the terms “stubborn,” “rebellious,” and “unyielding”?
- B. Don't be “stiff-necked,” like Stephen's murderers Acts 7:51
- C. It takes obedience to be saved! Heb 5:9

Adapted from an outline By Matthew Dockens