

Why Respect Your Boss?

1 Timothy 6:1,2

Introduction:

- 1st century slavery in the Roman Empire
 1. Was virtually free from physical abuse due to the laws Rome instituted after slavery was introduced 300 years earlier.
 2. Slavery was v_____
 3. The slave had much more financial security than the average free person since a slave was guaranteed a w_____ and given spending money.
- Today's employee
 1. Working for someone is v_____
 2. An employee is guaranteed a w_____
 3. Has enough similarities to the 1st century slave that the biblical mandates for slaves can be directly applied to employees.
- 1 Tim 6:1,2
 1. If slaves are commanded to respect their masters, how much more should employees respect their bosses.
 2. This passage gives reasons for this respect. Why respect your boss?

Why respect your non-Christian boss? (1)

- The mandate
 1. The slave is to c_____ his master worthy of a_____ honor.
 - a. This honor is un_____ (whether the boss deserves it or not)
 - b. This honor is of the h_____ kind.
 2. The employee is to consider his/her boss worthy of all honor
- The reasons
 1. To keep the master/boss from speaking evil of God's n_____ because of his/her Christian slave/employee.
 - a. The average employee complains about and c_____ the boss behind the boss's back.
 - b. The Christian employees who join in such speech can give grounds for a non-Christian boss to say that God does not make a d_____ in people's lives.
 2. To keep the master/boss from speaking evil of God's t_____ (or doctrine).
 - a. The apostles only taught what Jesus taught; and Jesus only taught what the Father commanded Him to teach. Therefore the *teaching/doctrine* refers to God's w_____.

- b. Christian employees who show disrespect by being poor employees (e.g. sluffing off, uncaring attitude, verbal disrespect, etc) can give grounds for a non-Christian boss to speak evil of Christian teaching (*they are taught to be this way toward those who are not like them*).
- Your non-Christian boss may already have reason to speak evil against God and His word. Don't let it be because of you.

Why respect your Christian boss? (2)

- The mandate is the same (show r_____ by serving the boss well) but the reasons are different.
- The reasons
 1. Because they are b_____ (spiritually speaking)
 2. Translations differ on the second reason. There are three views.
 - a. Because it b_____ the masters (KJV) – but this is a no-brainer. Paul was more profound than this.
 - b. Because Christian masters are devoted to the welfare of their slaves (NIV) – but see Eph 6:9
 - c. Because this benefits other believers in Christ (NAS, NLT) – this is the profound words that Paul wants us to ponder.
 - 1) It benefits other believers p_____ - the boss will have a quality product that believers will benefit from.
 - 2) It benefits other believers s_____ - the boss will sow his wealth into the church such as helping to support missionaries, to provide resources for discipleship, to provide a place for Christians to meet (see Acts 16:14,15; Philemon 1:2)

Conclusion

- Christians ought to make the b_____ employees because of Christ's presence in our lives.
- God wants our work to make an e_____ difference.
- What do you need to change in your work life to conform to God's will?