

► Discussion Guide

Use this guide with friends or on your own to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. For additional Bible Study tools, guides and devotionals, check out: biblegateway.com, bible.com, youversion.com and blueletterbible.org.

Conversation Starter

What was your first paying job? What was your favorite part about that job?

Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

Read [Colossians 3:22-4:1](#).

1. The slave-master relationship isn't common in our day. But in what other relationships or situations does the principle of *submission to authority* apply?
2. Why is submission to authority often seen as a threat?
3. What motivation for *serving sincerely* is given in [vs. 22](#)? What does it look like to live this out? See also [Psalm 34:8-10](#); [Proverbs 1:7](#); [9:10](#); [2 Corinthians 7:1](#); [Hebrews 10:31-34](#); [12:25-29](#).
4. On the one hand, Paul says we should try to *please our earthly masters all the time*. Then he says we are to *work for the Lord, rather than for people*. What is he trying to say?
5. According to this passage, what implications are there for those who are *in charge* of others? See also [1 Peter 5:1-5](#).
6. What is involved in biblical submission to authority? See also: [Romans 13:1-7](#); [1 Peter 2:21-23](#); [3:1-6](#).
7. Paul says you should *obey in everything you do*. Are there any limits to submission to authority? See also [Acts 5:29](#); [Ephesians 5:21-27](#).

8. Submission to God is saying, *Lord, I want your will more than I want my own way*. Describe a time this was *not* your attitude? What was that like? How did the situation turn out?
9. What does it mean that we will be *given an inheritance as a reward* and also *paid back for the wrong we have done* ([vs. 24-25](#))? If Christ made a *full sacrifice for our sin* ([Hebrews 9:26-28](#)), and if salvation is *not by our works* ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)), then what is Paul teaching us in [vs. 24-25](#)?
10. If you work for someone else, what attitudes do you need to ask God to change in you?
11. In a sentence or two, summarize [Colossians 3:22-4:1](#).
12. What's your biggest takeaway from this week's teaching?

Soul Training

Write down the names of five people in various areas of your life (e.g., family, work). Pray for each of them by name. Ask God to help you diligently serve them with the humility of Christ.

Memory Verse

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. [Colossians 3:23 \(NLT\)](#)

Daily Reading

- Day 1: [Colossians 3:22-4:1](#) Day 4: [Psalm 34:8-14](#)
Day 2: [Hebrews 12:25-29](#) Day 5: [Ephesians 5:21-27](#)
Day 3: [1 Peter 5:1-5](#)

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, August 26, we will continue our series *Living Changed Lives*. To prepare for the message, read [Colossians 4:2-6](#).

