

# Relationships

## Understanding Your Roles

### *In the Workplace*

**Premise:** Understanding your role as either employer or employee is vital for your success in the workplace. A godly role for each is the same balance with a heavier weight of authority carried by the employer. However, both should do their job as unto the Lord, not serving man but God.

**Basis Scripture:** Ephesians 6:5-9

Bond-servant, **be obedient to those who are your masters** according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as Bond-servant of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. And you, **masters, do the same things to them**, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

**Message paraphrase says this...** Servants, respectfully obey your earthly masters but always with an eye to obeying the real master, Christ. Don't just do what you have to do to get by, but work heartily, as Christ's servants doing what God wants you to do. And work with a smile on your face, always keeping in mind that no matter who happens to be giving the orders, you're really serving God. Good work will get you good pay from the Master, regardless of whether you are slave or free.

You are free in Christ and called to serve God alone. Any other service we do, **we should do it as unto the Lord**. The authority (Employer) in your life should be a reflection of God in your life. But when they are not, God sees your work and He alone rewards it.

Promotion comes from God not man (Psalm 75:6 & 7). Break the tendency to look to man for approval and acceptance. Seeking the approval of man will always get you out of balance.

### **Levels of Authority**

There are different levels of authority in your life. You must know how to relate to each one and understand their role so that you don't get out of balance in your life.

#1 God and the Lord Jesus are the **absolute first authority** in a believers life.

#2 God puts people in authority over us for our own protection and safety.

Romans 13:1-2 says, Let every soul be **subject to the governing authorities**. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. NKJV

Issues of “authority” have been the controversy of the universe since man fell in the garden. Man naturally wants to be independent, however life does not work that way and neither does the kingdom of God. Just as God is the final authority on everything in life, there are authority figures in every area of life. We must honor them and their position as given of the Lord; whether right or wrong they serve God’s purpose.

### **What if I have problems dealing with authority?**

There is an area of rebellion in your life that you haven’t given over the Lord. Repent, put it under the blood of Jesus and ask the Holy Spirit to help you.

### **What about harsh authority?**

God will defend His children

If you ever serve under a hard taskmaster or authority, the following are keys to get you through until God either promotes you, changes your authority or removes them:

- 1) Keep your eyes on Jesus.
- 2) Always be obedient (Hebrews 13:17).
- 3) Submit to the authority, honor those over you (1Timothy 6:1).
- 4) Never violate the Word, your conscience, or the law. But always remain respectful.
- 5) Remind yourself continually that God will move on your behalf.

**You are God’s representative.** Everything you do and say reflects on the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are acting like the world then what use is it for those around you to want your God. Your actions will make people jealous for your God. Always remember this. You are an on the job witness. When people know you are a believer they will watch you like a hawk. Sometimes to take you down, but when they see your good works they will glorify your God in Heaven (Mathew 5:16).

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