

Session 12: SOLO

Colossians 3 v 22 – 4 v 1—Living for God

Big idea:

Because of Christ and what he has done, our relationships matter: how we work, and how we respect authority, how we live on earth, matters. We are living for the Lord and not for men.

Guidance on questions:

3.

Slaves	Masters
obey your earthly masters	provide your slaves with what is right and fair

4. Earthly masters.

They may be slaves on earth now, and have to obey their masters, but these masters are just masters on earth, they are not the ultimate Lord and ruler of their lives.

5. They might be tempted to only work when their boss is watching them, so that they'll be impressed and reward them.

6. Paul says to work hard even when no one is looking at you because you love and live for Jesus.

7. As we work, we should remember that ultimately Jesus is our Lord, and so we work hard, and do our best because it's him we're serving (see Colossians 3 v 17).

8.

- At school? Carrying on working even when the teacher leaves the room or when you have a supply teacher.
- In a job? Putting as much effort in when your boss is there as when they're not; being committed to doing your best.
- At home? Not always waiting to be asked or being nagged to do a task at home, but getting on with it because you know it helps and serves your family, and therefore God.

9. We have an inheritance to come, an amazing reward. And no matter what we're doing, whether in church or out, on our own or with others, at work, at school, at home... we are serving Christ. One day we'll have the privilege of serving him forever. Let's start now!

10. Eternity with Jesus in heaven! Rewards in heaven, even if things on earth have been hard, as they might have been for the slaves.

1 v 12—Sharing in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light—being with Jesus in heaven forever.

3 v 4—Appearing with Jesus in Glory—being with him in heaven!

11. Some versions start verse 25 with the word “for”, suggesting it links to the verse before it.

There will be consequences for wrongdoing—God is just and fair in the way that he treats us.

There is no favouritism. Slave or master—you will answer to God for your wrongdoing. Both should remember that it is the Lord they are serving,

12. Provide your slaves with what is right and fair.

13. Treat their slaves badly, underpay them, expect too much of them...

14. They may be masters here on earth, and have responsibility and power, but ultimately they have a Master in heaven. They are not the biggest or the best or the most powerful—God is.

15.

- Chapter 3 v 18b: It is fitting in the Lord
- Chapter 3 v 20b: This pleases the Lord
- Chapter 3 v 23: Work for the Lord
- Chapter 4 v 1b: You have a master in heaven

Q: What is the big thing that everyone one of them needs to remember?

Jesus is Lord, he is the ultimate master. We are living to please him in everything that we do. How we treat others, how we live, act and speak, should reflect the fact that we are living for God not man.

QUESTIONS: you could ask as you meet to do Session 13 to check understanding of Session 12

1. What’s the warning in these verses about how we view those in authority, how we live with “earthly masters”? (We are called to obey them. Submitting to their authority is important—as we work for our earthly masters we are working for the Lord.)
2. How can we put 3 v 23 into practice? (Consider God more than what our friends, family etc. think of us—always wanting to do things the best we can.)
3. Why should we? (As we serve people on earth, we’re serving God—and living for him. That’s great now, and we have an amazing reward to look forward to.)