



As to the Lord, and not to men

If I were to ask you, “to whom are you doing whatever you are doing? What would be your response? One of the most powerful revelations you will ever receive that will transform your life is “Doing things as unto the Lord.”

One of the things that all believers ought to endeavor to exhibit is to do things unto the Lord, not unto men.

If you can get a handle of this revelation of this—you will do anything. This can transform your relationship with: Your spouse, friends and your employer, and employees.

This revelation will produce in you the spirit of excellence, a good attitude, and consistency in things and build character in you.

If you are not doing what you are doing unto the Lord, you will run out of steam. You will lose your best motivation. You will grow weary. You will quit, give up. You will lose your mind.

Doing things unto people will not always motivate you. You need a bigger cause which is doing things unto God, not unto men.

Purpose or Goal: What I want to achieve in this teaching is:

- Stir up this mindset of doing things unto the Lord
- Show you how vital and powerful this attitude is in everything you do
- Start living life conscious of doing things unto the Lord.

Doing things unto the Lord is not a onetime thing. This is something we must do continuously and daily. Make a decision to do things unto the Lord and the Holy Spirit will help and empower you to do so.

One good thing about everything the Lord has asked us to do, He empowers to do, and He helps us do so (Philippians 2:13)

1. Ephesians 6:5-8 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as men pleasers; but as the servants 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 whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

How are we to be obedient to our bosses?

- Fear and trembling—(respect and reverence)
- Singleness (heartily, Sincerity—Colossians 3:22-23) of your heart
- As unto Christ
- Not with eye service—as men pleaser
- as the servants of Christ
- doing the will of God from the heart
- With good will doing service
- as to the Lord, and not to men
- same shall he receive of the Lord

When Paul was writing this, He was addressing slavery of the time and was encouraging slaves to do what they did as unto the Lord not unto men and not to be men pleasers.

If Paul was encouraging these slaves in a worse situation, how much more should we do things as unto the Lord who aren't in the same situation as these slaves that Paul was writing about.

Your situation or circumstance is not an excuse not to do things unto the Lord or be obedient. Doing things unto the Lord is simply living in the presence of God and being God conscious. Doing things unto the Lord is how we demonstrate our Christian life, let the light shine and others see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven.

A. Masters—Bosses.

Sometimes, when we work (at our jobs, at church or at home), we do what we do for eye service as men-pleasers—consciously or unconsciously.

Men Pleasers are:

- Those that do things unto men, not unto God.
- Do things with eye service

If we are truly doing things unto the Lord, we will not do things with eye service—men-pleasers.

- a) The truth is that we should do what we do not only when our boss is watching, but when they aren't at all.
- b) If we only do what is right when others are watching, then we are the very definition of men-pleasers.

This is not to say that we should do nothing because we are being watched and wait until they are gone for us to do things unto the Lord. We can do things unto the Lord when we are being watched or not.

B. We should not have two standards of work or two speeds (one, for when we are being watched and another when no one is watching.)

- a) We should not only work harder, faster or go into full gear when we are being watched, but we should do the same even when no one else is watching.

C. "Ye eat or drink or whatsoever ye do"

- a) 1 Corinthians 10:31 "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

- b) In context Paul was addressing not eating foods offered to idols once we were made aware for the conscience sake of the other. Simply put, not to do things that would cause others to stumble. Romans 14 gives details of this.

- i) This is the last thing that most people would talk about as relates to glorifying God. This makes it clear that even in our eating (How much we eat and how often) can be done in a way that does not glorify God.

- We are not only to do other things unto the Lord but also in what we eat and drink.

- Eating and drinking without considering that what we do eat could hurt the conscience of another is not doing so unto the Lord nor glorifying Him.

- Gluttony is not unto the Lord nor is drunkardness. Overeating does not glorify God.
- We should do all to glorify the Lord. If God is not receiving glory in what we are doing, we aren't doing it unto the Lord.
 - Our heart should be to magnify God and to glorify Him.
- ii) The dietary laws in the OT were meant to achieve the same goal of this verse— Eating and drinking to the glory of God.
 - The point was not about not eating certain foods and meats, but to have people honor God in what they eat.
- iii) Notice it also says “Whatever ye do” This could refer to things like:
 - Not just eating and drinking but we ought to do everything we do unto the Lord to bring Him glory and if not, we should not be doing it.

Example:

- A business I ran in New York unto the Lord.
 - My business motto was: Integrity, Honesty, and Business.
 - Some folks will cheat and do the unspeakable only to say, “this is business.”
- Washing dishes unto the Lord
- Doing certain things around the house unto the Lord
- Handling or using things that you do not have to pay for.
 - Such as water at work, electricity, food, utensils, etc.

- If it is “free”, it is not free because someone else is paying for it.
 - Maybe you paid for it, but you did not pay to waste it but use it. Go back to the reception and pay a “waste fee” so you can waste it.
 - This is a poverty mindset.
- Scamming the government is literally scamming me and you. The government does not have any money but what it collects from the taxpayers. Cheating and lying on your taxes is not doing things unto the Lord.
- Renting. Some people will rip the entire place apart because it is not their own.
- Spouse in Marriage. Not every time are you going to want or enjoy doing things for your wife or husband. You need a greater cause and that cause is doing things unto the Lord, not unto your spouse.
 - It will not always be fun—but your mindset got to be—I’m doing it for and unto the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Big company or Organization (it doesn't hurt the company if I take one small thing).
 - We all have a habit of wasting what we do not pay for. Many take advantage of companies, insurance companies because they are big companies and so forth.
- Company car
 - Most people will abuse a company car just because they are not paying for it or it is not theirs.
- Watching late night shows, movies, and music.

- Do you do all the above unto the Lord?

Our focus has to be the Lord as the recipient of what you are doing.

- Giving—Give as you are giving to the Lord, (Proverbs 3:9-10; Isaiah 43:23);
- Teach or minister.
- Serving
- Forgive unto the Lord
- Love as unto the Lord

We need to look beyond people and do things unto the Lord, not unto people. It's about time!

Example:

I met a middle-aged woman who had lost her husband. She claimed to be a Christian believer. She was collecting money from the social security of her late husband and if she got married again, she would lose it. So, she decided to shack up and sleep around so she doesn't have to get married and lose this money she was drawing from the government. She was double dipping. She was not doing this unto the Lord. Doing things unto the Lord will cost you.

- c) Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.
 - i) These verses say that in whatsoever we do in words or actions, we should always endeavor to do so unto the Lord. The word "whatsoever" refers to our lifestyle and what we speak.
 - ii) In all we do, in word or deeds, we should do it unto the Lord, in the name of Jesus, and giving thanks to the Lord and the Father by Him.
- d) Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do [it] heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;
 - i) Something "heartily" is something that is done from the heart, not just the head.
 - Our service to God must be first driven and motivated by the right heart motives and attitudes because God looks on the heart, but man looks on the outside appearance (1 Samuel 16:7).

ii) When we work, we should work as if you were working for the Lord, not for human masters.

- Everything we do should be done as if it were directly being done for the Lord and not for our bosses or friends or anyone else.
- This makes serving the ungodly people even a lot easier because now it is not just done to the earthly master but to our Master which is in Heaven, The Lord Jesus Christ.

My brother dealing with a tenant.

I asked him to clean up as unto the Lord, not unto this guy. This set him free.

D. Doing the will of God.

Whenever we do what we do unto the Lord not unto men, we are doing the will of God for it is God's will that we are not men-pleasers but have a good attitude and do a good job.

Working and serving your boss (employer) as unto the Lord is doing the will of God.

- a) Doing the will of God is not just in what we do, but to WHOM we do it.
- b) It means to do it with a good attitude, not griping, complaining or grumbling.
- c) Philippians 2:14 "Do all things without murmurings and disputings:"
 - i) Not some things, but all things. God did not know about the rough and bad bosses.

E. What is an attitude?

It is not enough to just do things unto the Lord. We need to qualify that with a good attitude.

A manner of thinking, feeling, or behaving that reflects a state of mind or disposition: (American Heritage Dictionary).

Our attitude ought to reflect WHO we are doing things unto—God or Man?

What are some examples of bad attitudes?

- Complaining
- Murmuring
- Slanders
- Discord
- Negativity
- Griping.

- a) The attitude of a person is a lot more vital than what they do.

Many times, we think all we must do is a good job period. However, that is not true. Our attitude with which we do that good job is very important as well. People appreciate good work, but they are blessed and motivated by a good attitude.

- i) It doesn't matter if our bosses, friends, or spouses are good people or not, we must have the right and positive attitude when serving or working for them.
 - Paul did not say to be obedient and do things as unto the Lord to only good bosses/master.
- ii) Compliments: If you are doing things unto the Lord, we won't be bothered if we are not complimented.
- iii) If you went out to eat and had a waitress with a bad attitude, I strongly doubt if you would even enjoy your meal even if it were prepared by the best chef in town. If we have a bad attitude, we will do a poor job soon or later. That's the hard truth.
 - Bad attitude = Poor job.

b) Bad attitudes are a lot more contagious than good ones.

c) Opportunities to get a bad attitude will always present themselves, but we must remember that the choice is ours. We get to choose our attitude. It's not determined or dictated by others or our circumstances.

Probably you are underpaid, undervalued or even mistreated are you going to do a poor job or do a good job as unto the Lord not unto men.

- d) One of the reasons we do what we do poorly is because we aren't doing it unto the Lord but unto man.
 - Doing things unto the Lord produces a level of excellence that could never be achieved otherwise.
 - Of course, this works best with those who love the Lord.

F. Rewards.

Doing things unto the Lord pays off. There is a reward for it in this life and in the life to come. When we do things unto the Lord, we are not losing a thing even if it might look like we are.

- a) Colossians 3:22-24 says Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as men pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Christ.”
(Emphasis mine)

- That’s the proper attitude that we should have. Joseph kept this verse well.

Because we know and understand that when we do our work (small or large) unto the Lord, then of the Lord we will receive our reward. We will surely be rewarded. God is better at remuneration than any man.

If God is our source, then our services also should be to the Lord. Our bosses only sign the check, but our true source and promotion comes from the Lord. Therefore, we should do what we do as unto the Lord, our True Boss.

- i) Probably you might think, why should I do my best if no one sees and no one cares?
 - Well, God does, and He cares. He will reward you.
 - We should quit looking to man to reward us and start looking unto God—solely unto God.
 - ii) If there is not a God who has promised to reward you, there should be a cause to fear, worry or do otherwise.
 - But that is not true! Take an example of Joseph in the house of Potiphar, David in the bush keeping his father’s sheep.
 - iii) If you are looking to man, not God, you have missed the whole point.
 - iv) If you have never worked extra time sometimes off the clock, possibly you are not doing what you do unto the Lord.
 - v) If you will sit there and let things go south before your face because you are not on the clock, it is an attitude of not doing things unto the Lord.
- b) To the Jews, Work= Worship
- i) When they work, they consider work as worship unto the Lord.

- ii) This is the best motivation for us to be good at what we do. No wonder most Jewish folks that have this attitude and mindset are always prosperous.

- c) Matthew 6:1-6 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. [2] Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. [3] But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: [4] That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. [5] And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. [6] But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.
 - i) Doing things unto men causes us to lose our reward.
 - ii) Doing things unto men will cause frustration.
 - Their reward is the applause and being seen of men.

Make a decision now, today to do all as unto the Lord not unto men. If you do, the Holy Spirit will help you become conscious of doing things unto the Lord. Whatever you hate or dread can become fun if you set to do whatever unto the Lord.

My sister's story;

My sister got paid after three months when she humbled herself and went back to work and changed her attitude and did things as unto the Lord, not unto her bosses' and she was paid all that they owed her.

2. And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD.

— 2 Samuel 6:21

David was the very opposite of King Saul in every way. He always sought to do things that were pleasing to God or unto the Lord, not unto man. In 2 Samuel 6, he had a desire to bring the Ark of the Covenant back to the city of David. David danced unto the Lord with all his

might as the ark was in the city of David. There was rejoicing and shouting in the city that had been deprived of the Ark of the Covenant for years. But as he did, his wife Michal, Saul's daughter, despised him. She thought that David was dancing unto men, yet it was all unto the Lord. Unlike Saul, David did not care what people thought (including his wife, Michal) about him dancing unto the Lord, as long as He (God) was blessed by his actions.

This is the same attitude we should always exhibit. We should be seekers to please God, not men. We can learn this lesson from David. He was a king, a very dignified position, and he didn't have to dance, which could lead to being despised by the people. But David was not dancing for the people, but for the Lord. There was a difference, and therefore he didn't care at all what the people thought of him, but what God thought of him, the One Who had chosen him king over Israel (2 Samuel 6:21-22). David would have done it all the same all over again because it was unto the Lord. There is no need for shame when we are doing things unto the Lord and not unto men.

Those who do not love the Lord despise and criticize those who are praising the Lord. The example here is Michal (2 Samuel 6:20). And in the Gospels, we see the example of Mary (Matthew 26:7; Mark 14:3; Luke 7:37-38; John 12:3). Those who love the Lord would do anything, even if it would result in self-debasing, as long as it pleased the Lord. Satan will always parade someone to despise and criticize you regardless of what you do. We should always maintain and stick to our convictions and not be ashamed.

3. Doing things unto the Lord will cause godliness to manifest in our lives.

Example: Joseph is the best example of this.

Usually, we look at doing godly things as unto the Lord, but another way we can look at this is by not doing ungodly things because they will be done not unto the Lord—but against the Lord.

- Joseph looked at things differently. His heart was to do all things unto the Lord, sleeping with his boss's wife was not unto the Lord but against the Lord.
 - He did not want to commit sin because he saw that in a different light. He saw that as if he did it against the Lord. If we do what we do unto the Lord, we will shut the door to sin.

A. Sin against the Lord (not unto Him, but against Him).

One of the main greatest reasons and motivations, why we don't want to sin—do certain things, is because they are against the Lord.

In the same way, we need bigger motivations to do things unto the Lord, we equally need reasons or motivations greater and bigger than ourselves not to do certain things that are against the Lord.

i) Genesis 39:9-10—Sin against the Lord. Not sin against man or Potiphar but against God (2Sam 12:13, Psalm 51:4; Luke 15:18).

- Sin against the Lord = doing something against the Lord, not unto Him.

a) Genesis 39:9 There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

i) A reason greater than ourselves

- One of the greatest reasons and motivations, to avoid sin or doing ungodly things is not to sin against God. We need a reason and cause greater than ourselves not to sin. That greater cause can only be that when we sin, we are sinning against God. Anything less than that will not keep us from sinning committing or wickedness.

ii) Wrong reasons

- Reasons like; I will hurt people, I will be caught, I will lose my job, I will get divorced, I will catch STD's and so forth will not forever keep you from compromise and staying away from sin.
- These are all temporal measures. These reasons are like a Band-Aid on a wound. It does not heal the wound but only covers it.

iii) How to Evaluate sin

- Most people evaluate sin or don't want to do ungodly things based on what damage and harm it will do to others or themselves, but the main basis should be that it is sin and great wickedness against the Lord God.
- What this says is that if the damage was removed, even though it is wrong and it is sin, many would forge forward to it.

iv) Damages caused by sin, valid but not Main.

- Although the damage of sin is a valid cause not to sin, it should not be the MAIN reason not to sin. If there were no consequences, most people will go all into sin. We will reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7-8), and Jeremiah 2:19.

v) Doing the right thing

- We should do the right things whether we are caught or not. Whether we reap or not, whether it hurts others and ourselves or not.

vi) What motivation?

- We should be driven or motivated by fear, love, honor, and respect for God. That's the proper attitude that we should have.

vii) Wrong in God's eyes

- If something is wrong in God's eyes, it doesn't matter if other people feel it's okay; it is still wrong. God's opinion is higher and better than any man's.

viii) Those who esteem the Word, thoughts, and opinions of God more than the opinion of anyone else have a moral code that is established and grounded and will hold like an anchor, regardless of the pressures that come against them. Joseph valued God's opinion above anything else, that's why he responded the way he did and refused to give in to the ungodly pressures of this woman.

ix) Why did Joseph refuse to sleep with her? —Not because she was ugly.

- The main reason for Joseph not to sleep with Potiphar's wife was that it was a sin against God.
 - His heart was to do things unto the Lord, always. Sleeping with Potiphar's wife was not one of them.
- Yes, it was also sin against Potiphar, but Joseph had a greater and bigger cause than just his boss—He did not want to sin against God.
- His lifestyle was unto the Lord, not unto men.

If you have no regard not sinning against the Lord, nothing else can stop you.

You need to be intentional and purposeful, doing what you are doing unto the Lord. You must set your heart to do things unto the Lord. It will not happen accidentally.

We need to start treating sin as sin against the Lord—not only people.

Conclusion:

When you do things unto the Lord, you will do anything even when it seems difficult.

Who are you wanting to please? When we are doing things unto God, our actions will please men—eventually. If you please the Lord, you will please people accidentally, but if you don't please the Lord, you will be frustrated trying to please people.

Are you going to humble yourself and begin to apply this in your life? This can save your job, marriage and all your relationships. It is that powerful and it works.