

LAWS OF DIVINE ESTABLISHMENT

[Mini-Series on Employment #4]

(Gen.2:8, 15; 3:17-19)

We will study the Laws of Divine Establishment of employment in two parts:

- Employees (Col.3:22-25)
- Employers (Col.4:1)

NOTE: It will be helpful for you to study this subject along with Eph.6:5-9.

This lesson will study six Laws of Divine Establishment (DI) for Employment.

1. Paul's First law of divine establishment of employment is the law of work to eat.

(2 Thess.3:11) "For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: **if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.**" (2 Thess.3:8-13)

(1 Thess.4:11-12) "And make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands just as we commanded you, **so that** you will behave properly towards outsiders and not be in any need."

(Eph.4:28) "He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, **so that** he will have something to share with one who has need."

There are three types of able bodied unemployed.

- **Lazy**
 - Able but won't work – don't feed (Prov.6:6-11; 19:15)
- **Loafer**
 - Thinks entitlement - want money without work – don't feed (Prov.19:24; 20:4, 12-16)
- **Looking for work - every day**
 - Feed and help to find work (**Parable of laborers/ Matt.20:1-16**)

Because employment is a divine institution the doctrinal principles that Paul gave to the first century Christian, must be applied by the 21st century Christians.

2. Paul's Second law, with a command to obey, is the job description of work for pay (Matt.20:1-16).

(Col.3:22a) "Slaves (hoi doulos/ vplm) [employees], in all things **obey** (hupakouo/ p.a. impv.2pl) [hear to obey] those who are your masters (employers) [respect the position, maybe not the person) on earth."

(Eph.6:5a) "Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to (kata+acc. norm and standard) the flesh (sarx/ **standard of a job description**)."

3. Paul's Third law of divine establishment is to apply divine mental attitudes with obedience to the job description.

(Col.3:22b) **OBEY** – "not with external service, as (**hos**) those who merely please men, but with sincerity (haplotes) of heart, **fearing** (phobeo/ p.m.ptc. nplm) **the Lord.**"

(Prov.18:9) Don't be a loafer on the job. "He also who is slack in his work is brother to him who destroys."

4. Paul's Fourth law of divine establishment was a command to give 100% of oneself to the Lord on the job.

(Col.3:23) "Whatever you do, do your work (ergazomai/ p.a. impv.2pl) **heartily** (ek+abl. of source psuche), **as (hos) for the Lord rather than for men.**" (Eph.6:7)

Your employment is a great mission field because many eyes are on you and your life with Christ.

5. Paul's Fifth law was that spiritual service for the Lord on the job receives a double reward: one in time (promotion) and one in eternity (rewards/ 12) (Cor.3:10-15).

(Col.2:24) "Knowing that from the Lord you will receive (apolambano/ f.m.ind.2pl) the reward (antapodasis) of the inheritance (tes kleronomia). It is the Lord Christ whom you serve (douleuo/ p.a.ind.2pl)." (Eph.6:8)

6. The Sixth law involves divine justice and discipline towards both right and wrong based on the word of God.

The Lord promotes and disciplines us based on the laws of divine establishment of employment.

(Col.3:25) "For (gar/ adversative) he who does wrong (adikeo/ p.a.ptc.nsm) **will receive** (komizo/ f.m.ind.3ps) the consequences of the wrong which he has done (adikeo/ a.a.ind.3ps), and that without partiality (eimi/ p.a.ind.3ps/ **prosopolempsia/ nsf/ without respect of position and authority.**" (James 2:1-3, 9)

Note the difference in Eph.6:8 from Col.3:25.

Note that Paul changed from 2pl (Col.3:22-24) to 3ps (Col.3:25). Paul did this to make a **BIG** doctrinal point. Don't miss the sixth law!