



As Unto the Lord

Romans 12:10-12 -- Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer.

Introduction [Imagine self as disciple at time of Christ]

1. One of the basic fears that people have in making a final commitment to serving God is the fear of having their world so unrecognizably changed that they no longer have any zone of comfort in this world. It's as if they are afraid they are going to be asked to renounce everything and go live in a monastery.
2. It is true that if one is a murderer or fornicator or homosexual or drug dealer, or anything else contrary to the law of God, then there will be some radical changes.
3. But for the most part, God is not asking you to give up your job, or your home and family, or your hobbies and recreation. What He is going to do is show you how to live better in all those situations and enter into all your relationships with a godly attitude that will help you endure the bad times and get the most out of the good. And probably, you will be more able to tell the difference.

A. Passages for Perusal

1. Concerning the Use of our Bodies, our Lives, as unto the Lord:

- a. First of all, it should be appalling apparent, that what God wants us to quit doing to our bodies is only those things which are detrimental and harmful to them.
- b. Really, can you think of a drug addict, an alcoholic, a sexual pervert, a physically or verbally violent individual who would not be healthier and better off if they stopped doing what God considers wrong?
- c. Or can you imagine a world as being better off if people didn't put others first: who did not contribute their time and money to charities, or disciplined their children, or took care of their aging parents, or loved their neighbors?

Roman 6:8-11 -- Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 14:7-9 -- For not one of us live for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Romans 6:19-23 -- ... For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

2. Concerning our Devotion to Work as unto the Lord:

- a. Napoleon once said that it was a soldier's right to complain. But people have a tendency to complain (Biblically grumble) about everything: Their commanders, their bosses, their teachers, their spouses, their parents, etc.
- b. Yet God gives us a unique perspective to life. On the one hand, He promises that there is no temptation He will not provide an escape from. On the other hand, He tells us to consider that no matter how desperate our situation (even slavery) we can overcome it in our attitude by considering ourselves working for Him.

- c. This can decrease the mental burden and improve the quality of our work, which in itself may get the boss off our back or make more special our relationships.

Ephesians 6:5-9 -- Slave, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh,

1. *with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ,*
2. *doing the will of God from the heart.*
3. *With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. And, masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.*

3. Concerning our Commitment to our Spouses as unto the Lord:

- a. As a woman, if you were married to Jesus, would you berate, belittle, nag, talk nasty to Him, or find any way in which to disrespect Him?
- b. As a man, if you were the Lord, do you see yourself not being subject to your wife, respecting her, washing her feet if need be, living to serve her, giving your life up for her if needed?
- c. Yet in a marriage relation, this mutual respect has to be there or we are not serving as unto the Lord. Would you really talk and act toward the Lord the way you do to your spouse in the way that is disrupting your marriage?

Ephesians 5:21 -- And be subject to one another in the fear of the Lord.

Ephesians 5:22-24 -- Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

4. Concerning our Obedience to Parents as unto the Lord:

Ephesians 6:1-3 -- Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

5. Concerning Submission to Powers as unto the Lord:

1 Peter 2:13-17 -- Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

Titus 3:1 -- Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed.

B. Conclusion

1. Any situation can be better if the one in charge is worthy of respect.
2. You can cope with anything if you know you are properly compensated.
3. Any relationship can be improved if you are improved.
4. Any journey is more tolerable if God is helping with the load, when Jesus is pointing out the things of interest, and the end resides in the eternal quality of life.

[Chart]