

My I Take Your Order?

There's all sorts of tension in our world. Political tension. Tension over war. Tension over rulers. Racial tension. Social tension. Tension over abortion. Tension over homosexuality. All sorts of tension. Let me add another tension that snared me recently: fast-food tension. Yes, you heard me correctly. Fast food tension. It's about to kill me . . . and I'm not talking about the greasy food. Today's lesson is not as much about being lazy at work, though there's nothing wrong with that lesson. Consider, quickly, a few passages:

- **Ecclesiastes 3:9-13** What gain has the worker from his toil? I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.
- **Ecclesiastes 9:9-10** Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.
- **Proverbs 12:24** The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.
- **Proverbs 21:25** The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor.

No, today's lesson primarily concerns our attitudes at work. Let's begin with this passage.

- **Proverbs 26:15** The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth.

Yes, this is the one I chose for today's lesson. However, if I could, I would tweak it to say, "it wears him out to hand it to the drive thru customer . . . and his face screams, 'I hate life and don't want to be here today.'"

I'm being lighthearted in some ways, but the goal of today's lesson is to remind us that everything we do is important to the Lord. You really can underestimate the opportunities to shine a light or not, the positive or negative effects it can have on your culture. Because brethren, as always, there are beautiful things about almost any given culture, but there can be concerning trends as well.

Let's quickly consider God's expectation of His people. I'm familiar with the context, but we need to ask: is this only required among one another? Do you only behave this way among family or other believers? Is this a Sunday only mentality?

- **Matthew 5:16** In the same way, let your light shine before **others**, so that they may see your good works and **give glory to your Father** who is in heaven.
 - Who are the others? What's the main goal?
- **Colossians 3:12-15** "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, **kindness**, humility, meekness, and patience, **bearing with one another** and, if one

has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the **peace of Christ rule** in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."

- Only brethren? Kindness alone would get the job done these days.
- **Colossians 3:22–25** Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of **eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart**, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. **You are serving the Lord Christ.** For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.
- We can do it sincerely because we're actually serving the Lord.
- **1 Peter 2:18** Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle **but also to the unjust.**
- **Philippians 2:14–16** Do all things **without grumbling or disputing**, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.
- **1 Corinthians 9:19–23** For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. **I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.** I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

Titus 2:9–10 Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may **adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.**

- **Luke 6:31** And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.
- **Luke 16:10** "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.
- Brethren, I want to represent God in a fitting manner. I want to do to others as He has done to me. I want to be faithful in little ways in order to be trusted in bigger ways. Amen? I want to love God with my all and my neighbor as myself. Don't you?