



**The Inscrutable Question: Momentum Testing: System Testing: Sophisticated Problem Solving,  
Col 3:17-4:1**

3. System Testing: A system is defined as follows by:

Thieme, R. B., Jr. *Christian Suffering*. 2d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1997), 105:

A system, as the term is used here, is an organization composed of people under the *authority* of other people, which functions according to a *policy* designed to fulfill a specific *objective*. Human society is a web of systems.

There are good and bad systems, which may be successful or unsuccessful. The personnel—in authority and under authority—may be accomplished or incompetent. Objectives may be legitimate or dubious, lucid or ill-defined. Policy may encourage people to excel or may oppress them. Problems inevitably exist in the complex of interlocking and overlapping systems that constitute human society. All these organizations involve people, no two of whom are alike and not one of whom is perfect. With so many old sin natures jostling against one another and expressing themselves day after day, no wonder system testing is an inescapable form of suffering that poses a major challenge to the Christian's spiritual advance.

This environment is indeed “inescapable” and offers a daily opportunity to utilize the sophisticated problem-solving devices. Either orient to the fact that you *will* face unfairness testing, that it will be unfair and undeserved, or get ready for a life-long journey into a never-ending *Jornada*.

Those who are unable to adjust to system testing are constantly complaining, gossiping, maligning, and often are on strike. This failure to adjust often explains those who job hop. Principle: if you can't orient to the situation in one system you will not be able to in the next.

The mental attitude that sustains the sophisticated believer under system testing is stated in:

**Colossian 3:17** - Whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

**Colossians 3:18** - Wives, keep on voluntarily submitting yourselves [ *ὑποτάσσω*, *hypotassō*: **show deference and respect** ] to your husbands, as is mandated by the Lord.

Spicq, Ceslas. *Theological Lexicon of the New Testament*. Vol. 3. Translated by James D. Ernest. (Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1994), 424-26:

*ὑποτάσσω*. It may be said that this verb is peculiar to the language of the New Testament, and that “submission” is a major virtue in the Christian pastoral writings, expressing the relations of subordination in the cosmic and religious order.

God has placed everything in submission to Christ, to whom the angels are subordinate (Heb. 2:5; 1 Pet. 3:22); the church is in submission to the Lord (Eph. 5:24); Christians submit to God, to his law and his training, but also to one another to cooperate. Woman is subordinate to man, the wife to the husband, the children to the parents, the young to the old, slaves and servants to their master [employees to employers], subjects to their sovereign.



It is clear that *hupotassō* does not have the same range in these differing communal relationships; but it is always reverent submission, seen as a self-offering. It means first of all accepting the exact place God has assigned, keeping to one's rank in this or that society, accepting a dependent status, especially toward God, like children who are submissive to a father's discipline, after the fashion of the child Jesus. This religious subjection is made up of an obedient spirit, humaneness of heart, respect, and willingness to serve. To submit is to accept directives that are given, to honor conditions that are imposed, to please one's superior or honor him by the homage that is obedience, to repudiate egotism and aloofness.

**v. 19 - Husbands, love your wives and stop being bitter against them.**

**v. 20 - Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.**

**v. 21 - Fathers, do not embitter your children in order that they will not become discouraged.**

Parents can be too legalistic as well as too permissive, often vacillate between the two, and thus become very inconsistent. When they are Christian parents this inconsistency and mixed signals cause the child to assume this is not only unfair but that God and His Word are unfair and unjust. As a result they can become discouraged and although saved will reject doctrine. Some come back later in life but some do not.

**Colossians 3:22 -** Christian workers, keep on submitting to your employers according to the flesh, not with eye-service as men pleasers, but by means of personal integrity from doctrine in the stream of consciousness, with respect for the Lord.

**v. 23 -** Whatever you do, keep on executing your duties from the soul as unto the Lord, and not to men;

**v. 24 -** knowing that from the source of the Lord, you will receive the reward from the inheritance [**this is divine good and converts into escrow conveyance in time and eternity**]. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

**v. 25 -** For the believer who does wrong will receive the consequences of his wrong, and there is no partiality.

**Colossians 4:1 -** Employers, grant to your employees justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.

The Lord is not partial to anyone but rules in justice and righteousness according to divine standards toward all. Therefore, those who suffer from system testing must defer their case to the Supreme Court of Heaven with confidence that it will be prosecuted accordingly.