A New Heart From God

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Ephesians 6:5-9

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Snapshot:

All Christians, servant or master, are commanded to serve the Lord wholeheartedly.

I. Christian Servants are to Sincerely Obey (6:5)II. Christian Servants are to Work Willingly (6:6-8)III. Christian Masters are to Serve Their Servants (6:9)

Checking in

Anything you want to share from your time in the Word this week? How can the group be praying for/with you?

Connecting

What challenged your thinking in this week's passage?

Study

Point 1: Christian Servants are to Sincerely Obey (6:5)

READ: Colossians 3:22-25, 1 Timothy 6:1, Titus 2:9...then Ephesians 6:5

REFLECT: These Christian Ephesian slaves were to obey their masters, why? Who was it that they were actually serving at the very end of things? What does it mean to show "fear and trembling"?

RESPOND: We are not under the yoke of slavery, but we all serve someone. Who do you serve? How can you, sincerely obeying as to Christ, preach the Gospel to your master? If you're not obeying, how can you make it right with your master?

Point 2: Christian Servants are to Work Willingly (6:6-8)

READ: 1 Corinthians 7:22, Mark 3:35, Colossians 3:23-25, Psalm 62:12...then Ephesians 6:6-8

REFLECT: What does it mean to serve with "eye-service" and as "people pleasers"? Alternatively, what does it mean to "serve as to the Lord and not man"? Do you see either of these things in today's culture?

RESPOND: Do we serve with "eye-service" as Christians? Are we "people pleasers"? Do we only work when the boss is looking? If so, what does the Bible say about God's forgiveness of sin? How can we be better disciples in the workplace?

Point 3: Christian Masters are to Serve Their Servants

READ: 1 Timothy 6:2, Leviticus 25:39, v.43, Job 31:13-15, Acts 10:34... then Ephesians 6:9

REFLECT: What power did these Christian masters have over their servants? What could they do with it? Why does Paul instruct them to stop threatening?

RESPOND: Some, if not most of us aren't managers at a workplace. What does this mean for us today? You may be in charge of your siblings, friends, family, young children, or your co-workers. How are we to treat them if they are a believer or not? Why are we to treat them that way? How is it that even as a master, we too are to submit to God and your "servants"?

Memorizing

"Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ" (Ephesians 6:5).

Preparing for next week

Read: Ephesians 6:10-20

Ask: questions of the text

Pray: through text, for the pastor as he prepares, for your heart to hear, for the congregation to hear, for all of us to be obedient.