



Ephesians 6:5-9 (Various Texts)

“Christians: ‘The Third Race’”

Pastor Patrick Bowler

10-31-2021

Consult the Scriptures:

Ephesians 6:5-9
Philemon 8-18

(See also: Col. 3:22, 1 Pet. 2:18, Deut. 21:15-17, 23:15-16, Matt. 19:3-8, Ex. 21:1-6, 16, 20, 23:9, Gen. 39:3-6, 41:39-43, 1 Cor. 7:20-24)

Discuss:

1. Read Ephesians 6:5-9 and discuss. What is it about this passage that we often find so difficult?
2. The Bible is often viewed by critics as being pro-slavery. Is that true? Why or why not? As a group, recall some examples from this week's sermon.
3. Citing Dr. Williams, Pastor Patrick said, *“Permitting something or regulating it does not necessarily communicate that someone (namely God) is for it.”*¹ What does that mean? (For example: see Deut. 21:15-17, Matt. 19:3-8) How might it relate to the issue of slavery in Scripture?

¹ Dr. Peter Williams. Lanier Theological Library. Lecture: *Does the Bible Support Slavery?* Given on Oct. 30, 2015 at the Lanier Theological Chapel in Houston, TX. Linked by TGC, June 7, 2018.
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-wrong-say-bible-pro-slavery/>

4. Read the following passages and discuss: Ex. 21:1-6, 16, 20, Deut. 23:15-16. With Genesis 1 and 2 in view, how do these passages inform us concerning God's heart towards all humanity, and particularly, the subject of slavery?
5. From the sermon, recount some of the differences between the subject of slavery in Scripture (particularly in first century Rome) and in our own experiences as a country.
6. Read Paul's letter to Philemon and discuss. What stands out to you? Identify the harmony between Philemon and Eph. 6:5-9 and discuss how it might inform God's people today.
7. What challenged you with this week's sermon? What questions do you still have? What's your next move?