

Faith at Work

1 Timothy 6:1-5 - November 13, 2022

Bondservants & Bosses

A bondservant was a slave. Someone who was more of a possession than a person and was constantly living under the authority of someone else.

They lived to fulfill the will of another.

The direct topics being addressed in this passage would deal with the daily issues that would exist between Ephesian slaves and masters.

There is a secondary application... many of these issues are still VERY relevant today... In places of current slavery as well as our culture and occupations.

According to the "World Population Review" (.com)

- India – 7.9 million
- China – 3.8 million
- North Korea – 2.6 million
- Nigeria 1.3 million
- Iran – 1.2 million
- Indonesia 1.2
- Pakistan (2 million indentured servants in the brickyards)

As the Gospel was sweeping the middle east and eventually the globe, it knew no boundaries and changed people's perspectives of everything... including slavery.

The church was to embrace all people regardless of social status... groundbreaking.

- Eph. Neither slave nor free
- Paul and Philemon have an incredible relationship.

Read 1 Timothy 6:1-5

Bondservants: a slave, servant, or bondman. Devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests.

Count their masters

Bosses/Masters: whoever has a position of power and authority over you = Lord

Worthy of all honor

Honor widows, honor, elders, honor bosses

Honor: in respect to rank or office. (Why... simply put, because they outrank you.)

Joseph & Potiphar... a million reasons to cost. (Genesis 37)

(For the sake of application)

Who is a bondservant? Almost all of us.

To be under the yoke...

"Stuck in the grind" - "Same thing just another day"

If you have to work... you are under the yoke... you have no choice.

This *is* aiming at the lowest of the low and if it is true for the person at the bottom of the pile, it is most certainly true for everyone above them.

Envy – Despise

Despise: look down on, to think little of, to treat as if they are beneath you or at least you are not as low as them.

Rather than despise (in it's place) **SERVE** them...
or... do them service.

Philippians 2:14-15 Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

Complaining: (Murmuring) a secret debate or displeasure.

Disputing: not so much over truth as much as it is over details (splitting hairs)

You will add weight to those around you and you will exhaust whomever is over you.

Proverbs 18:21a Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue,

- **Marriage:** Brag on your spouse
- Bite your tongue when it comes to your **kids** in public
- **Conservative** Complaints

***Serve:** yield to them... let them drive.

Support them not just their company.

- ◇ **Have you ever had a backseat driver?**
- ◇ **Is there any chance you are being the backseat driver?**
(Marriage, parenting, and ultimately the workplace)

I've worked with people who do the right thing but subversively undermine & talk down

A Survey taken in August of 2020 found that 84% of U.S. Workers blame management for workplace stress.

1 in 5 say their boss is the worst thing about their job. Even worse than their commute.

Confident vs. arrogant (the American Christian)

We can't just be here to turn tables and slay giants – serve and love our neighbor

Galatians 5:13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love **serve** one another.

Whom do you work for? (no you don't)

Kevin our Safety Manager... (Not just when he is watching)

Ephesians 6:7 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to **the flesh**, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, **as to Christ**; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants **of Christ**, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, **as to the Lord**, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

Kevin our Safety Manager... or Jesus our Savior?

- **Work for them when they are not looking**
- **Support them behind their back.**

Hurry, get to work, our boss is coming... THE boss is always watching.

If by chance you are under the authority of a born-again boss you are uniquely blessed.

PS. If you are an owner and a believer... do your people think they are blessed?

Eph. 6:9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Regardless of how your boss is...

Gossip and slander is a sin.

Answer this question.

As a born again believe:

It's ok to slander when _____.

It's ok to gossip when _____.

Proverbs 10:18b ... whoever spreads slander *is* a fool.

You are the clown when you dance around speaking ill of authorities.

Would you ever give yourself a bad Yelp review? Go onto FB and trash yourself?

Well, isn't all this a double standard? - YEP!

It's ok to leave, but it's not ok to stay and complain, to stay and slack off, to stay and cast a shadow at work is to cast a shadow on the work of the cross and the character of Christ.

Proverbs 24:26 A righteous *man* who falters before the wicked *is like* a murky spring and a polluted well.

1 Timothy 6:1b ... so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.

The unbelieving world knows that we believe something altogether different... but do they see people who are altogether different?

- *Who can rejoice when they fall into various trials?*
- *Who can love their enemies?*
- *Who can do all things without complaining?*
- *Who can love their neighbor as themselves?*
- *Who prefer other people above themselves?*

WHY? – (vs. 1b)

There is something so much bigger going on than your paycheck.

You work with sinners who have not yet yielded their lives to the Savior.
Jesus has a yoke... it's over your occupation... who do you really work for?

The yoke may say...

- Relator
- Construction
- Sales
- Amazon fulfillment
- **It really says**, servant of Christ... Builder of the Kingdom

Secret: As long as you remember Who's yoke you are under... easy and light.
(Yoke is easy... burden is light.)

Worthy of honor...

It does not mean, you have to like them... but you do have to respect them.

Honor: in respect to rank or office. (Why... simply put, because they outrank you.)

Position vs. person

1 Samuel 24:4-6 – I will not come against the Lord's anointed.

I have also worked with people who speak with admiration for their boss.

Not worship them but respect and support them.

So much under the surface...

1 Timothy 6:3-5

Does NOT consent to: draw near, approach, to agree with

Wholesome words (conviction and truth wrapped in grace)

Even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ

And to the doctrine that accord with **Godliness**

If they don't agree with God then there is an internal problem...

Pride, lack of knowledge, they dispute and argue over almost anything,

Obsess with disputes and arguments over words

(sounds more like a lawyer vs. lover of Jesus.)

They experience (From which come)

Envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions (Always things the worst)

These things are the fruit or result of the heart and mind being hard against God.

Deductive reasoning or process of elimination (Start poking around)

Does NOT **consent** to: draw near, approach, assent to

Matt. 5 ... He went up on a mountain, when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

Matt. 8... a centurion came to Him, pleading

Matt. 8... a certain scribe came and said to Him

Matt. 8... Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him,...

Matt. 9... the woman with the issue of blood...

came from behind and touched the hem of His garment.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty!