

Wholehearted Servanthood, Master Fearing Attitude  
Ephesians 6:5-9  
Al Gascon | July 7, 2024

- ⇒ If you have a manager or overseer in your profession remember you aren't working merely for them; work as if you're working for Christ.
- ⇒ If you're an overseer and you have authority over others, remember who has ultimate authority over you; treat others beneath you the way your master treats you.

*Galatians 3:26-29*

*Ephesians 6:5-9*

- ⇒ Slaves submitted by obeying their master with the proper attitude, commitment, motive, and diligence as if serving the Lord.
- ⇒ Slaves were divided into three classes—the articulate, who were slaves; The inarticulate, which were animals; and the mute, which were tools and vehicles. A slave's only distinction above animals or tools was that he could speak.
- ⇒ Masters submitted via The Golden rule; treat your slaves as you, the Lord's slave, would want to be treated.

*John 8:31-36*

- Abraham and the patriarchs had slaves and weren't condemned for it. Gen 21:9-10
- Canaan, Ham's son, was made a slave to his brothers. Gen 9:24-27
- The 10 Commandments mention slavery twice, therefore God accepted it. Ex 20:10,17
- Slavery was widespread in the Roman Empire during the time of Jesus, and he never condemned it.
- And the apostle Paul commanded slaves to obey their masters, therefore he approved it too. Eph 6:5

### **The Bible and Slavery**

- An Israelite can voluntarily become a slave to pay off a debt, treated as a hired worker and not a slave, and was not to be ruled over "ruthlessly." Lev 25:39-43
- Israelite slaves were to be released during the seventh year of service. Ex 21:2
- Israelite slaves were released during the year of Jubilee, during which they were to be given back their freedom and assets lost during enslavement. Lev 25:54
- If any slave was treated severely in losing an eye or a tooth they were to be released. Ex 21:26-27

- When you release a slave do not send them away empty handed; give to them as the Lord gives to you. Deut 15:12-15
- A Master who killed their slave was to be punished. Ex 21:20
- If any slave was seeking refuge from his/her abusive master, they were not to be returned but allowed to live among Israel. They were not to be oppressed! Deut 23:15-16
- Love the foreigner among you as you love yourself. For you were foreigners in Egypt. Lev 19:33
- MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF SLAVERY: HUMAN SLAVERY < SLAVERY TO SIN
  - Jesus sets the captives free from true slavery that all humanity is enslaved to, slavery to sin. John 8:31-36
- THE END ALL BE ALL OF SLAVERY IN THE BIBLE IS NOT FOUND WITHIN A VERSE, BUT WITHIN A PERSON.
  - We can simply look at one person to debunk all the falsities around the topic of slavery, Jesus Christ.
  - **Quote of the week**—*Why did Christians try to abolish the slave trade? Because our example is Jesus Christ! And Jesus Christ in a time when slavery was normal never had a slave, never bought a slave, and never sold a slave!* — Bob the Builder, a Christian Apologist

### Discussion Questions

- a. Have you ever had a job or a boss that was so stressful that “remembering to serve the Lord” was oftentimes needed at the forefront of your mind? Did serving Christ have an effect at that job?
- b. What do you believe the history of slavery would have been without the Bible passages mentioned in the bulletin?
- c. Believe it or not, slavery (not just sex slavery) is around to this day. What do you believe the modern church can/should do in places where slaves are being bought and sold?
- d. Why do you think there isn’t a “release you slaves” command in the New Testament?
- e. My favorite argument for the removal of slavery is in the life and character of Jesus Christ (Jesus Christ in a time where slavery was normal never had a slave, bought a slave, and never sold a slave). Do you feel as though this is a good argument against slavery or are there better ones?