

Living Worthy of My Calling, Pt. 27
“Bondservants and Masters”
Ephesians 6:5-9

Controlling Principles:

1. Christianity does not abolish our relationship to existing social, political, and economic conditions.
 - obligation to government authority not abolished (Rom. 13:1; 1 Pet. 2:13ff)
 - obligation to the covenant of marriage not abolished (1 Cor. 7:12-14)
 - obligation even to the bonds and limitations of slavery are not abolished!
(1 Cor. 7:20-22; 1 Pet. 2:18-20)
2. The Bible does not either condemn or condone slavery. It does not justify the status quo.
3. The focus of the Word of God is how a Christian should live under such authorities; how he should react to them.
4. Church’s responsibility is not to busy itself with changing the conditions or conventions of society. Her primary task is to address man’s relationship to God – to address man’s primary problem.

1. To Those Under Authority: Bondservants

vv. 5-8

(1) Your obedience – as to Christ!

“Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ”

- “be obedient to those who are your masters”
- “with fear and trembling” cf. 1 Cor. 2:3
- “in sincerity of heart
- “as to Christ”

(2) Your service – unto Christ!

-1- Negatively:

“not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers”

-2- Positively:

“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”

- as bondservants of Christ
- doing the will of God from the heart
- with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord

-3- All such service will be rewarded!

- whatever one’s station!

“knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.”

2. To Those in Authority: Masters

v. 9

(1) A corresponding kindness and regard

“And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own master is also in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.”

- A particular temptation addressed

- to be harsh and severe
- to misuse authority

(2) A recognition that we serve the same Master!

- Christ has the same regard for all of His servants, whatever their status in society
- All enjoy the same favor and status before Him!

Further Application