

Well Done Good and Faithful Church – Honoring the Name

March 27, 2022

1 Tim. 6: 1-2

These instructions are to those who are slaves within the church and those who have come to faith in Christ while slaves and also to masters who are believers.

Explanation of Text: V1 is written to slaves with any type of master. V2 is written to Christian slaves with Christian masters. “Under the yoke,” “yoke” is a collar for animals pulling with another animal or by itself. The key is someone else is controlling them. Bondservants is the word given in the translation, but “slave” is the best use of the word. Slavery could be a positive relationship for those who needed a debt paid or could also be those who manage an estate for someone else. The de-humanizing of people has always been prohibited by God.

Why doesn't the Bible Condemn Slavery? 1) There is no right for a human to judge the Bible. Jn. 12:48: Jesus judges. 2 Pet. 3:16: “untaught and unstable people twist.” 1 Cor. 2:14: things of God “are spiritually discerned.” 2) Statement is not true- the Bible condemns cruel slavery in OT. 3) It is generally asked by people who want to fit their purposes upon the Bible. 4) The question betrays a faulty assumption that Christianity makes us all equal, 1 Cor. 3:10-15 “saved as though by fire.” Luke 19:11-27: “ruler over...cities.” Is. 49:23, “Kings and Queens,” Rev. 21:22-26, “kings of the earth bring their glory into it.” 5) Bible condemns the sin that is the cause of harsh slavery- sin is the issue the Bible speaks to.

V1, “worthy of all honor,” the **more obvious** meaning is “treated with honor,” “respect,” and the word “all” is complete, not partial. Col. 3:22, “in all things.” Eph. 6:5, “with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ.” The **less obvious** meaning in V1, “regard (count NKJ) them” is an internal determination with a willing heart. Col. 3:22-23, “not with eye service,” do it heartily as unto the Lord.

Two Reasons to obey command: 1) So the name of God would not be reviled, or be made light of, 2 Tim. 2:19, Rom. 10:13, Col. 3:17, in the “name of the Lord.” 2) So the teaching/doctrine may not be reviled. The changed life in Christ of a slave could influence the heart of the master with the Gospel. Tit. 2:9-10, “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.” **The foundation of this command is practically to spread the Gospel and honor God:** 1 Tim. 5:14; Tit. 2:5, “to not be reviled;” Tit. 2:8, “nothing evil to say.”

Meaning of V2: Slaves must not be disrespectful to masters. All are equal in Christ, 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11. Believers should not try to subvert their Christian masters, but rather serve them and be a benefit because 1) They are believers and 2) Masters are loved by God; Rom. 1:7. Slaves are a benefit to their masters and then in return their masters honor the Lord by treating them in a godly manner. God's encouragement, 1 Cor. 7:17-24, saved as a slave, remain a slave, if able to not be enslaved do so- live as you are called.

5 Theological Truths:

- 1) Christian life is a life of submission based upon the sovereignty of God. See also Philemon & Onesimus.
- 2) The Glory of God is the highest priority. V1, “the name of God” and “His doctrine.”
- 3) We are all slaves of Christ, 1 Cor. 6:20; Eph. 6:5-7; Col. 3:22. Luke 17:8-10; we are the Lord's slaves to do what He commands us. Matt. 11:29, Jesus' yoke is upon us.
- 4) Humble obedience now results in external exaltation later, Eph. 6:8; 1 Pet. 5:6, Matt. 25:21.

- 5) Injustice now will be repaid later, Col. 3:25; Ps. 37:28; Rev. 6:10-11, Ps. 94:1-2.

Applications

- 1) Be a benefit to those in authority over you. 1 Pet. 5:2, shepherds are called to be the servants of the church. 2 Cor. 4:5, “slaves for Jesus’ sake.”
 - a. Employer/Employee relationship. -Be a terrific worker, faithful. Pray for your boss and your company.
- 2) Guard the name of God with your life. The reputation of God is more important than anything in my life, money, or success. Treat others with love and respect for the sake of God’s honor and name in whatever situation in life.
- 3) Prioritize the success of the Gospel over solving my problems. Ask: How can I honor the name of Christ in my life? Take a loss vs. suing the brethren, 1Cor.6: 5-8.
 - a. Peace follows those who suffer for the Gospel.
 - b. Sometimes suffering is God’s will for my life, 1 Pet. 3:17, suffering wrong for doing good.
 - c. We will never approach the humility that Christ suffered for us, Phil. 2:5-8.

Further Discussion and Application

The worst type of slavery is slavery to sin, Rom. 6:16 and all of chapter 6. Being a slave for righteousness provides the one who adorns themselves in Christ with eternal life. Why is suffering for Christ a blessing in the life of a believer?

Along with the applications Steve provided, how does it glorify the Lord for us to suffer wrongly for the sake of the Gospel? How do we practically show humility in our homes, with our spouses, in our jobs, and with the person driving in front of us to the glory of God? Obedience to Christ and His commands brings peace. How does doing God’s will satisfy our souls?

Truth #3 puts into perspective that God is ultimately in control of our lives. As a slave of God what do we own and lay claim to? How about our reputation, wealth, talents, and our situation in life?

We will never be humiliated like Christ was for us. How should we view our sin in light of the gift God gave us in Christ? What does Scripture tell us is our new life in Christ? See 1 Cor. 6:20.