

Ephesians Ephesians 6:4-10

Slaves and masters

- Slavery was a common practice in ancient societies and is still practiced today.
- Christians led the abolition of slavery in many parts of the world as God changed hearts.
- We can apply this passage to the workplace and to positions of authority.
- As Christians, we should obey people in authority over us as we would obey Jesus. Raise your children to obey Godly authority
 - Ephesians 6:4-5 We teach our kids to be good workers

The heart of work

Why do you do what you do?

- Ephesians 6:6-7 Are you a people pleasers or God pleasers?
- Our motivation for work should be to please God.
 - Genesis 37-41 – Joseph
- Work isn't punishment .Do you view it as a privilege?
- Phil 2:13 Who provides the strength_____.
 - Ephesians 6:6
 - Genesis 2:15 who tended the garden of Eden_____?
- Work has a divine purpose and we should work like we're working for God. Eph 2:10, Eph.3:20
- When we work, we serve others and we serve God.
 - Ephesians 6:7
- Because our first allegiance is to God, work shouldn't be the most important thing in our lives. "I can make a good thing a bad thing when I make it the main thing= an idol" said the workaholic

The motivation for work

In everything we do, we're serving Jesus and He deserves our best worship. Work is a form of worship and our witness

- Ephesians 6:8

God rewards us for the good we do.

- Luke 16:10 God teaches us to be faithful with a little and then_____
- Our reward may come in this life.
- Our reward will come in eternity when we're judged by God for what we've done.

Those in authority should treat others with the same integrity, kindness, and good intentions that they want shown to them.

- Ephesians 6:9
- A Christian boss should treat his or her employees fairly.
- A Christian in authority shouldn't use abusive language or actions.
- Eph.4:29-30 Bad language grieves the Holy Spirit
- Abusive language or actions damage the person abused, the person abusing, and their witness for Jesus.

There's no favoritism or people pleasing with God. He is not co-dependent. His love is genuine not manipulative.

- Ephesians 6:9
- Colossians 3:25
- We will all be rewarded and punished for what we do regardless of our earthly position or social status.

We're not what we do. Our identity is in **Jesus**.

- Galatians 3:28 we are all one in Christ

Action Steps

- Serve others wholeheartedly as you would serve Jesus.
- As you lead, serve as Jesus did.
- Do your weekly devotion over today's sermon and read Ephesians 6:10-15 for next week.

Ephesians 6:7

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men,...

Ephesians 6:5 Servants (slaves), be obedient to those who are your physical masters, having respect for them and eager concern to please them, in singleness of motive *and* with all your heart, as [service] to Christ [Himself]—

⁶ Not in the way of eye-service [as if they were watching you] and only to please men, but as servants (slaves) of Christ, doing the will of God heartily *and* with your whole soul;

⁷ Rendering service readily with goodwill, as to the Lord and not to men,

⁸ Knowing that for whatever good anyone does, he will receive his reward from the Lord, whether he is slave or free.

⁹ You masters, act on the same [principle] toward them and give up threatening *and* using violent *and* abusive words, knowing that He Who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no respect of persons (no partiality) with Him.

¹⁰ In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides]

Phil 2:16 AMPC

[Not in your own strength] for it is **God Who is all the while effectually at work in you** [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.

Eph. 3:20 AMPC

²⁰ Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) **the [action of His] power that is at work within us**, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over *and* above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]—

Colossians 3:17-25

¹⁷ And whatever you do [no matter what it is] in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus *and* in [dependence upon] His Person, giving praise to God the Father through Him.

¹⁸ Wives, be subject to your husbands [subordinate and adapt yourselves to them], as is right *and* fitting *and* your proper duty in the Lord.

¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives [be affectionate and sympathetic with them] and do not be harsh *or* bitter *or* resentful toward them.

²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.

²¹ Fathers, do not provoke *or* irritate *or* fret your children [do not be hard on them or harass them], lest they become discouraged *and* sullen *and* morose *and* feel inferior *and* frustrated. [Do not break their spirit.]

²² Servants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not only when their eyes are on you as pleasers of men, but in simplicity of purpose [with all your heart] because of your reverence for the Lord *and* as a sincere expression of your devotion to Him.

²³ Whatever may be your task, work at it heartily (from the soul), as [something done] for the Lord and not for men,

²⁴ Knowing [with all certainty] that it is from the Lord [and not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [real] reward. [The One Whom] you are actually serving [is] the Lord Christ (the Messiah).

²⁵ For he who deals wrongfully will [reap the fruit of his folly and] be punished for his wrongdoing. And [with God] there is no partiality [no matter what a person's position may be, whether he is the slave or the master].