

Pastor Brandon Phillips

Family Matters / Work / Ephesians 6:9

In this passage, Paul gives three instructions to believing masters. As masters in this world, you are to:

- I. Obey the same rules
 - II. Obediently cease ruling with fear
 - III. Observe God's righteous rule
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Pre-Sermon Comments

"The trouble with the rat race is that even if you win, you're still a rat." ~ Lily Tomlin

"We tend to set up success in Christian work as our purpose, but our purpose should be to display the glory of God in human life, to live a life "hidden with Christ in God" in our everyday human conditions." ~ Oswald Chambers

Sermon Text

Ephesians 6:9 NASB95

And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Introduction to our Text

Ephesians 2:1–3 NASB95

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging

the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Romans 3:23 NASB95

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Review

Ephesians 6:5–8 NASB95

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

not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

Slaves are to be subject to their earthly masters.

"The aim of the vigorous saint is to achieve the realization of Jesus Christ in every set of circumstances." ~ Oswald Chambers

"William Wilberforce...was a great man who impacted the Western world as few others have done. Blessed with brains, charm, influence and initiative, much wealth ... he put evangelism on Britain's map as a power for social change, first by overthrowing the slave trade almost single-handed and then by generating a stream of societies for doing good and reducing evil in public life... To forget such men is foolish." ~ J. I. Packer

They are slaves to their heavenly Master

Ephesians 5:18 NASB95

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

James 1:12 NASB95

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to

those who love Him.

As Masters, you are to obey the same rules

And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

A Christian employer's relationship to his employees should have the same motivation and goal as a Christian worker's relationship to his employer: the desire to please the Lord.

Philippians 2:3–4 NASB95

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

As Masters, you are to obediently cease ruling with fear

And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Acts 9:1 NASB95

Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest,

In the words of one commentator, slaves were never in a position to predict when the wrath of an owner would descend upon them and their lives. They were conditioned by this perennial fear of physical abuse and maltreatment.

Matthew 24:45–51 NASB95

"Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?"

“Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.

“Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

“But if that evil slave says in his heart, ‘My master is not coming for a long time,’

and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards;

the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect *him* and at an hour which he does not know,

and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

As Masters, you are to observe Jesus’s righteous rule

And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update Chapter 7

12 “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Deuteronomy 10:17 NASB95

“For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe.

Leviticus 19:15 NASB95

‘You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor nor defer to the great, but you are to judge your neighbor fairly.

Leviticus 19:37 NASB95

'You shall thus observe all My statutes and all My ordinances and do them; I am the LORD.' "

Romans 2:11 NASB95

For there is no partiality with God.

James 2:1 NASB95

My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with *an attitude of personal favoritism*.

Series Review:

James 3:17 NASB95

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

Ephesians 5:15 NASB95

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

Ephesians 5:16 NASB95

making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 1:21 NASB95

far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Ephesians 2:6–7 NASB95

and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:10 NASB95

so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.

Ephesians 3:10 NASB95

so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.

Wisdom from below says to you women, "You shouldn't submit to any man - he's not worthy of it!"

Wisdom from above says to you, "Lovingly submit to your own Husbands as to the Lord!"

Wisdom from below says to you men, "Women are only meant for our sexual gratification - why commit to just one!"

Wisdom from above says, "Husbands, sacrificially love your wife as Christ loves the church!"

Wisdom from below says to the children, "You know better than your parents, they are fools!"

Wisdom from above says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother!"

Wisdom from below says, "Stick it to your boss every chance you get!"

Wisdom from above says, "Obey your earthly masters as to the Lord!"

Wisdom from below says, "Your employees won't perform unless they are prodded like cattle!"

Wisdom from above says, "Always remember, your employees are made in the image of God."

Conclusion:

Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!"
And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

"Did Christ finish His work for us? Then there can be no doubt but He will also finish His work in us." ~ John Flavel