

## Family Matters Part XI - Instructions to Slaves

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Family Matters / Ephesians 6:5-8

In verses, 6:5-8, Paul gives two clear directives to slaves. You are to be:

- Subject to Your Earthly Masters
    - Doing So with Fear
    - Doing so in sincerity
    - Doing So without man-pleasing
  - Slaves to Your Heavenly Master
    - Representing the Father's will
    - Rendering service with good will
    - Realizing the return
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## Pre-Sermon Comments

Work is a blessing. God has so arranged the world that work is necessary, and He gives us hands and strength to do it. The enjoyment of leisure would be nothing if we had only leisure. It is the joy of work well done that enables us to enjoy rest, just as it is the experiences of hunger and thirst that make food and drink such pleasures. - Elisabeth Elliot

### **Genesis 2:15 NASB95**

Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

### **John 5:17 NASB95**

But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."

### **Genesis 3:19 NASB95**

By the sweat of your face

You will eat bread,

Till you return to the ground,

Because from it you were taken;

For you are dust,

And to dust you shall return.”

## Sermon Text

### **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.

## Introduction to our Text

*“The material means of achieving ends are limited. We have been turned out of Paradise. We have neither eternal life nor unlimited means of gratification. Everywhere we turn, if we choose one thing we must relinquish others which, in different circumstances, we wish not to have relinquished. Scarcity of means to satisfy ends of varying importance is an almost universal condition of human behaviour”*

## Review

### You are to be subject to your earthly masters

#### **Ephesians 6:5 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;

**Exodus 21:16 NASB95**

“He who kidnaps a man, whether he sells him or he is found in his possession, shall surely be put to death.

**Romans 6:17 NASB95**

But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

**James 1:2-4 NASB95**

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**We should address slavery from Paul’s perspective.**

- **He believed both slaves and masters are free in Christ. [1 Cor 7:22](#)**

**1 Corinthians 7:22 NASB95**

For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord’s freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ’s slave.

- **He taught that both slaves and masters are equal in Christ ([Gal 3:28](#) [1 Tim 6:2](#) [Phlm 16](#))**

**Philemon 16 NASB95**

no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

**1 Timothy 6:2 NASB95**

Those who have believers as their masters must not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but must serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and preach these *principles*.

**Galatians 3:28 NASB95**

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

- **He was concerned that both slaves and masters carry out their responsibilities as unto Christ ([Col 3:23](#))**

**Colossians 3:23 NASB95**

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,

- **He was mainly interested in the slave and master's eternity with Christ ([Rom 8:18](#))**

**Romans 8:18 NASB95**

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

- **He told slaves who can become free to do so ([1 Cor 7:21](#))**

**1 Corinthians 7:21 NASB95**

Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that.

## **Doing so with Fear**

**Ephesians 5:21 NASB95**

and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

**Psalms 4:4 NASB95**

Tremble, and do not sin;

Meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still.

Selah.

## **Doing so in sincerity**

Slaves were to obey their human masters in the singleness or sincerity of their hearts without being duplicitous in their disposition or actions.

They are not to pretend to labor while actually loitering.

They should give undivided attention and effort to the task in hand ~  
[[Hoehner]]

Our obedience is not to be hypocritical or superficial but genuine and thorough.

## Doing so without man-pleasing

**Ephesians 6:6 NASB95**

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

## Application and Implications:

### You are to be slaves to your Heavenly Master

**Ephesians 6:6 NASB95**

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

**Ephesians 1:7 NASB95**

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

## Representing the Father's will

**2 Corinthians 4:17 NASB95**

For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

## Rendering service with good will

**Ephesians 6:7 NASB95**

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

Temptations which accompany the working day will be conquered on the basis of the morning breakthrough to God. Decisions, demanded by work, become easier and simpler where they are made not in the fear of men, but only in the sight of God. He wants to give us today the power which we need for our work. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## Realizing the return

**Ephesians 6:8 NASB95**

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

**Application and Implications:**

**Conclusion:**

**Luke 16:9 NASB95**

“And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings.

What you do in your house is worth as much as if you did it up in heaven for our Lord God. We should accustom ourselves to think of our position and work as sacred and well-pleasing to God, not on account of the position and work, but on account of the word and faith from which the obedience and the work flow. - Martin Luther

**Philippians 2:14 NASB95**

Do all things without grumbling or disputing;

To live well is to work well, to show a good activity.- Thomas Aquinas