

N / General

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

Why is work difficult for us?

Describe how you are responding in your work situation.

How would you characterize your work ethic?

Describe how you are responding to your current boss. In what ways are your responses conditioned by their character?

How do you respond to unbelieving bosses who have questionable integrity?

Are you more likely to undermine an unbelieving boss? In what ways might an employee do so?

How do you respond if your boss is a believer? Are you more likely to take advantage of them? If so, in what ways?

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

What are motivations for work? List positive and negative motivations.

In what ways are you motivated to work?

What are your struggles with work?

Review

Considering the context, describe in your own words why you think Paul added this exhortation to slaves and masters in his letter to the church at Ephesus.

You are to be subject to your earthly masters

What are some of the ways that slaves and modern day employees are alike? How are they different?

Are you obedient to your boss? If not, what are some of the ways you disobey?

Should there be any exceptions to your obedience? If so, what are they?

Doing so with Fear

In what ways are you exhibiting a fear of God in your daily work?

How should you respond if or when your boss goes on a power trip and begins to lord over his employees?

Explain in your own words why it is sinful to cut corners knowing that your boss will not know.

Explain in your own words why it is sinful to give less than full effort in the workplace.

What, if any, recourse do we have when we encounter sinful actions by those who have charge over us?

Doing so in sincerity

In what ways might an employee be hypocritical or superficial in the workplace?

In what ways might an employee work to undermine the authority of their supervisor?

In what ways might an employee be duplicitous in their dispositions or actions at work?

Doing so without man-pleasing

In what ways might an employee be a man-pleaser in the workplace?

Do you struggle with being a man-pleaser? If so, in what ways do you seek to please men instead of God at your workplace?

Application and Implications:

You are to be slaves to your Heavenly Master

Representing the Father's will

How do we know the Father's will?

Why is it critical to know the Father's will?

In what ways does the Father's will impact our work and relationships in the workplace?

Rendering service with good will

Why is our work a form of worship to God?

In what ways do you seek to worship God with your work?

Realizing the return

Why is it crucial to have an eternal outlook in the workplace?

Application and Implications:

Conclusion:

Why is our work meaningful to God?

Why is it sinful to complain when our boss gives us a task or assignment that we do not like?

What is the lone exception to obeying your earthly masters?

What have you learned from these verses (Eph 6:5-8) which you will implement in your daily life?